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FOREIGN MINISTERS SEEK CENTRAL AMERICAN SUMMIT

PA241948 Paris AFP in Spanish 1901 GMT 24 Feb 83

[Text] San Jose, 24 Feb (AFP) -- Today the governments of Costa Rica, Honduras and El Salvador called for a conference of Central American foreign ministers for discussion, "at the earliest possible date," of concrete mechanisms that can lead to peace in the area.

A declaration signed by Foreign Ministers Fernando Volio of Costa Rica and Edgardo Paz of Honduras and by Salvadoran Deputy Foreign Minister Alejandro Gomez establishes that the conference will be convoked "without any exclusions" and will be open to "participation by other Latin American states that are interested in promoting peace and democracy in the region."

Foreign Minister Volio noted that, in addition to the three countries that are proposing the meeting, they will seek participation by Guatemala and Nicaragua, countries that were excluded from the forum for peace and democracy, created under the auspices of the U.S. Government 4 months ago.

As for the remaining countries to be invited and the date and place of the meeting, Volio indicated that they are now in the "exploratory" stage and that any further declaration at the moment would not be in keeping with the rules of international diplomacy.

However, Volio and his Honduran counterpart Paz Barnica were emphatic in pointing out that this new "call for dialogue," although of a broad nature, is directed only to governments of sovereign states and not to belligerent groups.

They did note that the countries that will probably be called to the Central American foreign ministers meeting are "the outlying nations" of the region, but they refused to give any indication as to whether the United States and Cuba would be among the countries invited.

The ministers of Costa Rica, Honduras, and El Salvador reiterated that their decision to convoke this regional conference reflects their agreement on the need to overcome debates on achieving peace in Central America and advanced toward concrete accomplishments.

They expressed their conviction that "as the protagonists in the region's drama it behooves the Central American countries to take on the responsibility of promoting dialogue and negotiations among all area governments."

This dialogue, they added, must contribute to "a reduction of tensions and to the establishment of foundations for a permanent climate of peaceful coexistence and mutual respect among states, permitting the existence of pluralist democratic institutions, through an overall and regional solution to the complex situation affecting the area."

In this regard, Foreign Secretary Paz Barnica said that the foreign ministries of Costa Rica, El Salvador, and Honduras are undertaking periodic contacts to define joint positions and to draft documents that will be presented as they become available.

SOVIET TRADE MISSION ARRIVES 24 FEB

PY242110 Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 24 Feb 83

[Excerpts] A Soviet mission headed by Soviet Deputy Foreign Trade Minister Boris Gordeyev and made up of officials of the Soviet Foreign Trade Ministry and of important Soviet firms, arrived in Buenos Aires at noon today.

During their stay in Buenos Aires the mission will analyze the status of the agreement under which Argentina will export a minimum of 4 million tons of corn and sorghum and 500,000 tons of soybeans to the USSR yearly.

The Soviet officials will hold meetings with the economy minister and with the secretaries of trade, agriculture and livestock and maritime interests.

The delegation will also visit the ports of and farms in Bahia Blanca, Necochea and Mar del Plata.

Grain, Trade Exchange Noted

PY250209 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1900 GMT 24 Feb 83

[Excerpts] Buenos Aires, 24 Feb (TELAM) -- Boris Gordeyev, Soviet deputy minister of foreign trade, said here that the first technical flight of Aeroflot (the Soviet airline) is scheduled for 27 March 1983. He also attached great significance to the mission he is heading in our country.

Gordeyev, who arrived at Ezeiza airport shortly after midday today, told reporters that the mission he heads will analyze matters of bilateral interest. At the airport, the visitors were received by Foreign Trade Secretary Alberto Fraguio.

"Wheat purchases, which are being made under the terms of the agreement signed in 1980," Gordeyev remarked, "will obviously top our agenda." The Soviet official added that larger grain purchases will depend on Soviet purchasing power and on Argentina's stores.

Gordeyev explained that the bilateral talks will be held within the context of the above agreement, which foresees that if it is necessary to make consultations, the parties will meet in Buenos Aires or Moscow. "In this case," he explained, "Dr Fraguio invited me to come here."

Gordeyev remarked that the delegation could not give precise figures of present Soviet grain needs. "It is very hard to answer that question," he noted, "since we only know what our approximate needs for the first half of 1983 will be." "Concerning the second half, Soviet crops are harvested in June. Therefore, we do not know yet either the total harvest or the seasonal harvest," he added.

Asked whether Moscow was thinking about buying grain from the United States, taking into account U.S. dumping prices and credit facilities, Gordeyev noted that, in fact, U.S. grain is sold at low prices and on credit, but not to the USSR. "They sell us wheat at current prices and without credit. We have no such advantages on the U.S. market," he said. "Therefore," he went on, "we have no preference for either the U.S. or the Argentine market."

The Soviet official reported that bilateral trade reached approximately $1.6 billion in 1982, and that Argentine purchases were quite small. "That is precisely what we would like to discuss in the talks," Gordeyev explained. He announced that efforts will be made to promote Soviet products on the Argentine market, through seminars, technical meetings, expositions and so forth. However, the official noted that the sale of those Soviet products which are already known on the Argentine market can be increased right now without resorting to any special promotion effort.

In turn, Foreign Trade Secretary Alberto Fraguio said: Mr Gordeyev and I will review our bilateral trade during 1982 and will confirm the ideas we agreed upon during my visit to the Soviet Union last year. "Mr Gordeyev," he went on, "will visit some port and grain storage facilities. Our talks will be based on an open agenda that may include any topic of bilateral interest."

Regarding the possibility that the quotas fixed in 1980 may be increased, Fraguio gave assurances that there are no quotas but a grain agreement. The Soviets, Fraguio explained, have made other grain purchases, like wheat, outside that agreement, which is still valid anyway.

Regarding the sale of Mendoza wine to the USSR, Fraguio explained that two simultaneous operations are taking place; the sale of wine and the purchase of Soviet streetcars, equipment and spare pieces. These two operations are carried out simultaneously. "They are neither barter nor payment compensation operations, as some people have imagined," he explained, "but normal foreign trade operations."

In conclusion, Fraguio was asked whether he was likely to resign his position. He replied: "I don't have the slightest idea."

MARTINEZ VIVOT ASSURES RECOVERY OF FALKLANDS

PY250118 Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 2000 GMT 23 Feb 83

[Text] Upon arriving in Rio Gallegos today, Defense Minister Julio Martinez Vivot said that the Southern Archipelagos are an inseparable part of Argentina's sovereign territory and that, one way or another, the Malvinas Islands will be recovered.

In a brief chat with reporters, Martinez Vivot stated that the government is aware of the Argentine people's feelings and that, therefore, it maintains that our Malvinas Islands are an inseparable part of Argentina's sovereign territory and that, one way or another, they will be recovered.

FIP DEMANDS BRITISH GOODS' SEIZURE, PAY STOPPAGE

PY250156 Buenos Aires Argentina Televisora Color Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 25 Feb 83

[Text] The Popular Leftist Front, FIP, requests that the government dismiss Economy Minister Jorge Wehbe and Central Bank President Julio Gonzalez del Solar and expropriate British assets in Argentina, especially those located in Patagonia.

The statement was made by FIP leader Jorge Abelardo Ramos upon arriving at Olivos Residence shortly after 1900. Ramos and other FIP leaders are now meeting with President Reynaldo Bignone.

[Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish at 0111 GMT on 25 February reports that the FIP tonight also asked the government to discontinue payments of the Argentine foreign debt to Great Britain "until it withdraws from the Malvinas Islands."]

DOMESTIC IMPLICATIONS OF BIGNONE'S NEW DELHI TRIP

PY181259 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1703 GMT 17 Feb 83

[Carlos Fernandez commentary: "A Risky Trip for the President"]

[Text] Buenos Aires, 17 Feb (NA) -- One of the most delicate issues that the government will have to handle as of today is the president's trip to the nonaligned summit meeting to be held in New Delhi, India, the first week in March.

Bignone and Foreign Minister Juan Ramon Aguirre Lanari have discussed this subject at length. Nevertheless, Bignone has decided to honor San Martin Palace's request that he attend the meeting. The decisive argument was that attending the meeting will be the only effective way to obtain the number of votes necessary so that the Malvinas issue can continue to be discussed at the United Nations.

Now, although things are very clear as far as foreign objectives are concerned, they are not so clear in connection with the domestic situation. The foreign minister has conveyed to the president his concern over the fact that the military might raise objections to the trip which might cause the collapse of the decision to obtain the support of the Nonaligned Movement, which has many votes at the United Nations.

The foreign minister was specifically alluding to the case of General Calvi who praised Argentine-South African ties on decorating the South African military attache in Argentina. Aguirre Lanari's present fears (and his annoyance then) are comprehensible because at the time of the General Calvi issue, Argentina was launching an offensive to gain the support of the Nonaligned Movement, which has many African members.

The president decided to handle the necessary explanations to prevent the military from getting irritated and consequently interfering with or preventing the president's trip in one way or another.

The issue will not be easy to resolve. The New Delhi meeting will be attended by several personalities considered irritating for the military leaders' views on foreign policy.

Who is Bignone likely to meet in New Delhi? As far as we know, he is likely to meet with Fidel Castro (Cuba supported the Argentine position at the nonaligned meeting) and with Al-Qadhdhafi (considering Libya's support in connection with war materiel). Bignone will not do more than this. There will be no meeting with PLO leader 'Arafat under the technical excuse that 'Arafat is not a head of state.

The truth is that the "military would not tolerate Bignone shaking hands with someone who was photographed with Argentine terrorists," diplomatic sources have stated.

Despite these issues, San Martin Palace officials continue to fear that the military might cause trouble because of the trip. The diplomats insist that "the military must understand that attending the nonaligned meeting will not mean estranging Argentina from its professed ideological viewpoint, but that it is a procedure necessary for obtaining the votes we need.

The diplomats base their position on the intense and costly campaign that British officials are carrying out in India to attenuate what they already know will be a resolution condemning the British colonialist actions in the South Atlantic.

Things appear to be clear as far as foreign policy is concerned. Bignone and the diplomats hope that things are also clear as far as the domestic situation is concerned. We will see what happens when the president's meetings begin in New Delhi.

JUNTA MEETS, PRAISES POLITICIANS, LABOR LEADERS

PY242318 Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 2000 GMT 24 Feb 83

[Communique issued by Argentine Military Junta on 24 February]

[Text] The military junta held a meeting at the Navy headquarters, located at the Libertad building, on 24 February 1983. The meeting was attended by the commanders in chief of the Army, Navy and Air Force, Lt Gen Cristino Nicolaides, Adm Ruben Oscar Franco and Lt Gen Augusto Jorge Hughes respectively.

The economic situation and its influence on the attainment of the existing objectives were carefully analyzed during the meeting, which began at 0900 [1200 GMT].

The junta also discussed and praised the attitude of labor and party leaders and of major mass media regarding the national situation and the need to guarantee a normal electoral campaign. The meeting ended at 1400 [1700 GMT].

BIGNONE CONTINUES 'DIALOGUE' WITH POLITICIANS

Receives Peronists 22 Feb

PY231740 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish 1123 GMT 23 Feb 83

[Text] Buenos Aires, 22 Feb (DYN) -- President Reynaldo Bignone told the Peronist leadership during a meeting held at the Olivos Residence that he is in favor of cancelling, before the elections, the [1976] institutional acts, which deprived former president Maria Estela Martinez Peron among other individuals of their political rights. Bignone also stated that "it is likely that the power will be handed over this year." Bignone ratified the statements he made in June 1982, when he promised all political parties that there would be elections without either restrictions or conditions."

The head of state told the Justicialist leadership that the final decision on cancelling the institutional acts will be adopted by the military junta. The Justicialist leaders reported that the president is in favor of cancelling the institutional acts before the elections.

Bignone stated that he will make public the institutional timetable next Monday, adding that in his opinion, "it is likely that the power will be handed over to the constitutional authorities this year."

The Peronist leadership, which agreed to participate in the political dialogue, remained at the Olivos Residence for almost 3 hours. The Peronist delegation was made up of Deolindo Bittel, Nestor Carrasco, Herminio Iglesias, Ruben Sarboli, Rosaura Isla, Chentola Amestoy, Blas Carballo, Bernardo Montenegro, Jorge Obeid, Edgardo Murguia and Rene Orzi and Donaldo Dib, who are the party's attorneys.

The Justicialist leaders quoted Bignone as stating that the government "will submit a final report [informe de cierre] on the subject of human rights" in keeping with the information that is in the hands of the executive branch and of the Armed Forces.

Justicialist First Vice President Deolindo Bittel, who headed the delegation, said he was "satisfied" with the meeting, adding that "I am convinced that the government is determined to conclude the institutionalization process." Yesterday, the Peronist party released a document outlining its demands to Bignone. The Peronists have requested that the deadlines that have been set for handing over power be shortened, arguing that since transitional stages provided for in the Constitution do not apply to de facto governments, and therefore "they can be adapted to an urgent political change."

The Justicialist Party was against reforming the Constitution and it requested the cancellation of the institutional acts inasmuch as they "violate the Constitution." Bittel dismissed the possibility of requesting a pardon for Mrs Peron "because," he said, "we cannot request a pardon for a crime that we believe she did not commit."

Concerning the electoral system, the Peronist document supports maintaining the system for electing senators provided for in article 46 of the Constitution. However, in connection with the election of president, vice president and deputies, the document request that "the party that obtains the greatest number of votes be guaranteed a majority of votes that will allow it to implement its program and that the other parties be guaranteed a representation in keeping with the proportional system."

The document also requests that the government make public the commitments made to foreign banks and the figure, due dates and causes of Argentina's foreign debt.

The Peronist leaders also expressed their support for the courts to investigate illegal actions, noting that "committing illegal actions is something personal which does not involve the institutions to which the responsible persons belong."

The Peronist leaders concluded by stating that "the road to democracy will not be successful if all obstacles blocking a timely atmosphere are not removed. There cannot be a timely atmosphere for institutionalization when groups continue to operate outside the law. For this reason, an immediate response should be given to all threats and intimidations."

Meets With PDC 24 Feb

PY242243 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1034 GMT 24 Feb 83

[Excerpts] Buenos Aires, 24 Feb (TELAM) -- In a new round of the political dialogue, President Bignone yesterday held separate meetings with leaders of the Christian Democratic Party [PDC] and the Democratic Socialist Party, during which they discussed issues that are of concern to the majority of Argentines. All of these issues have been already discussed in previous meetings that the president has held with other political leaders at the Olivos presidential residence.

At the end of the meeting with the PDC, Francisco Cerro, who acted as PDC spokesman and agreed to meet with the press, noted that among the more important subjects discussed were the lifting of the state of siege, the missing persons issue, the Malvinas issue, the situation of the foreign debt, corruption, the socioeconomic policy and the electoral timetable.

Cerro said: We held a frank dialogue in which we expressed our position. We also said that we had attended the meeting in good faith. The president answered all our questions in a frank manner and we told him that we hope that his answers will result in specific measures.

Cerro said that we requested the government to hand over power before the end of 1983. The president also told us that he will deliver a message to the nation on Monday 28 February in which he will discuss many of the issues that were discussed in the meeting held today.

Cerro noted that in answer to a question posed by our delegation requesting that the electoral law be issued as soon as possible and not on 30 June, the president agreed with us but noted: "I will not go into detail on this in Monday's speech because I hadn't planned on doing so, but, he said, some mention will be made of the matter then. [quotation marks as received]

They noted that representation in Congress should be determined on a proportional basis applied to all parties without a required minimum number of votes since this would be in keeping with the pluralist nature of the country. Therefore, the number of legislators for each party will be determined by the number of votes each party receives.

Cerro explained that a system should be implemented granting provinces a minimum number of deputies based on 10 percent of the number of deputies the largest provinces have, thus ensuring federalism and the representation of migrants. They also requested Bignone to hold national, provincial and municipal elections on the same day but using different envelopes to avoid any confusion of local issues.

Cerro noted that the PDC leadership put special emphasis on the need to solve the missing persons issue in keeping with the law and truth. The PDC leadership noted that it was necessary for the government to issue within a short term complete reports on the missing persons issue, the South Atlantic conflict, the present status of negotiations on the conflict with Chile over the Beagle Channel and the nation's foreign debt.

Cerro added that they also discussed the urgent need to deal with unemployment by providing job sources through public works programs; the need to halt the rise in prices, public service rates, and taxes; the need to exert control over the prices of consumer goods, medicine and school articles; the need for a readjustment of the tax system aimed at reactivating the economy; and the need to extend the decrease in the value added tax on housing to other activities.

Lastly, the PDC leadership requested that political leaders have access to the media and also government aid for the provinces affected by the floods. The meeting was attended by Francisco Cerro; Martin Dip; Hugo Conza; Salvador Busacca; Basilio Serrano; Enrique Quinodoz; Tomas Vallejos; Tiburcio Lopez Guzman from Tucuman; Angel Manur from Cordoba; Gustavo Gonzalez Ocampo from Corrientes; Jose Maria Rene from Santa Fe, and Juan Wenner from Chubut.

DSP Leader on Session

PY240258 Buenos Aires Argentina Televisora Color in Spanish 0000 GMT 23 Feb 83

[Interview with Secretary General of Democratic Socialist Party Emilio Gianoni after meetijg with President Reynaldo Bignone in the Olivos Residence in Buenos Aires on 23 February -- recorded]

[Text] [Question] Mr Gianoni, will you please sum up for us the talk you had with the chief of state?

[Answer] I will repeat to you what I have already told other journalists. The talk was cordial. We made a strong complaint regarding the media because they have practically left us out. The president gave us some explanations, but we are not satisfied. Nevertheless, we insisted. The talk covered a number of topics which sorted out into two parts; one on institutional and political topics, and another on economic and social topics.

In the first part, we talked about the proportional representation law regarding electoral matters, the separation of national, provincial and municipal elections, the nonuse of decrees for making constitutional amendments, the explanations which the nation needs regarding the war against the guerrillas and the Malvinas war. Regarding these last two topics, the president promised that explanations will be given. He did not put forth any criterion to be adopted regarding the electoral law; he did not mention any decision regarding the date of elections, but we have an idea how this is going.

[Question] Are you satisfied with this meeting?

[Answer] Well, a dialogue always raises hopes that it might bear fruit. Now only time will tell to what extent we were able to influence with our viewpoints. Up until now, we can only have complaints regarding previous dialogues.

[Question] Mr Gianoni, regarding the date being mentioned in some publications, that October is a deadline, and December another for the transfer of power, does the Democratic Socialist Party accept those deadlines?

[Answer] Look, I will repeat what I told you before, what I told other journalists. We are not concerned about 15 days sooner or later. What concerns us is that the process should be clean, without political preferences, that all parties, not only ours, should have the right to make public statements now without waiting for the electoral process.

[Question] So the citizenry is expecting something like that, that each political party or group may speak and say what it will do.

[Answer] Of course. We have complained to the president because we do not see the government-controlled media providing equal access to all political parties. We have not been able to explain to the citizenry why we ask them to join us, to explain the difference between our proposal and those of other parties. The citizens may find one better than the other but we want to express our views.

[Question] Did the president understand that position?

[Answer] The president understands but said that he runs into difficulties because you journalists are the ones who manage these things. So we still have to find out whether the state itself or the journalists in the state's service are to blame for this. And I mean in the state's service in the best sense of the word. They are discharging that service because they were called to do so.

[Question] How do you see the upcoming electoral dispute?

[Answer] Very complicated. It seems to me that the country in this regard, or the political leadership, has learned very little. I do not like this climate of charges, offenses, slander. Logically I will never defend a criminal. If I am told that so-and-so committed a crime, nobody will keep me from going to court and making charges as an obligation to stand up against what is known as a public offense. But to create an artificial climate for demagogic motivations is not the idea of members of the Democratic Socialist Party.

OFFICERS SANCTIONED FOR CONDUCT DURING WAR

PY201950 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 20 Feb 83 p 9

[Excerpts] (NA) -- Two Army officers, a lieutenant colonel and a major in charge of a unit which suffered great losses in the Goose Green area during the Malvinas conflict have been severely sanctioned and placed on the retired list. Army sources revealed that the two men were retired some weeks ago, but this information was kept secret until yesterday. Both officers had previously been sentenced to 90 days arrest. Their names have not been made known.

The charges made against the two officers have not been made public, but reliable sources say they were found guilty of not carrying out their duties properly when faced by the enemy.

In the meantime, the commission entrusted with analyzing political and strategic responsibilities, before, during and after the Malvinas conflict, has not yet received any indication from the military junta to accelerate its work.

Sources close to the commission say this body agrees with what President Reynaldo Bignone told Radical Party leaders to the effect that its findings would be ready by May. The military junta would then study the report, and by June the results made public.

SITUATION SERIOUS IN WORST FLOODING OF CENTURY

PY221805 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish 1153 GMT 22 Feb 83

[Excerpts] Resistencia, 22 Feb (DYN) — The regional office of the Argentine Naval Prefecture disclosed here that the water level of the Parana River, surpassing the levels reached during more than 100 years ago, at 0600 today in Puerto Iguazu reached the level of 32.30 meters. Consequently all defensive measures were intensified early this morning in the entire northeastern area where the worst floods of the century are expected if the Parana River water level continues to rise. They are expected to be worse than those of last year which affected the Chaco, Misiones, Entre Rios, Corrientes and Santa Fe Provinces.

More than 30,000 persons evacuated during the previous floods are still living in this area of the national Mesopotamia and it is reckoned that the number could easily double now if the flooded areas continue to spread. Some 17,000 persons have already been affected by the floods in the Chaco Province since December. According to experts, this uncontrollable rise of the river's water level causes constant unexpected floods along the country's entire eastern river system where the inhabitants, although they were prepared, never expected the situation to get so bad.

Raul Martinez, director of the civil defense department of the Chaco Province, disclosed this morning that at Barranqueras Port, where the river water level at 0600 this morning was 7.51 meters, "work was carried out all night to build flood walls." In answering questions posed by local journalists he stated that, however, "the situation is under control," and pointed out that "there is a notorious difference" between the current floods and those registered in December 1982 which caused many victims and sizable material damages.

PAZ ZAMORA ON MIR PARTICIPATION, MINIMUM WAGE

PY241835 Paris AFP in Spanish 1012 GMT 24 Feb 83

[Text] La Paz, 24 Feb (AFP) -- Jaime Paz Zamora, leader of the dissident Movement of the Revolutionary Left (MIR) and vice president of the nation, has stated that we are willing to again become a part of the government if President Hernan Siles Zuazo takes the initiative and the appropriate corrections in the management of the state are carried out.

He added that the democratic process, through which the leftist Democratic and Popular Unity (UDP) was able to assume power, was brought about by the Bolivian people and, therefore, we have the right to participate in its administration. The MIR was excluded from the governing front in January 1983 as the outcome of a crisis within the governing front over the acceptance of the resignation of six MIR ministers who controlled the economic sector. The MIR's demands are based on the need for running the country through a collegium and not a president. The Executive Committee of the UDP, which also includes the Communist Party and the National Revolutionary Movement of the Left (MNRI), would be the basis of the collegium.

The vice president also said that the implementation of the basic minimum wage, which is being demanded by the powerful Bolivian Labor federation (COB), "will originate a number of difficulties for both private and state enterprises, because both these sectors are in a state of crisis. He added that 100-day social truce was a policy orchestrated by Siles Zuazo, not by the government.

BILL DRAFTED TO LEGALIZE PUBLIC SERVANTS UNIONS

PY241659 La Paz Radio Illimani Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 24 Feb 83

[Excerpt] The Labor and Labor Development Ministry has announced that within the next few hours it will submit to Congress for approval a draft bill containing a measure which fully authorizes public servants to form their unions.

This draft bill submitted by the Labor Ministry, with prior technical studies carried out by the same Ministry, has been analyzed by the cabinet and is following normal procedures.

In statements to the media, Labor Minister Roberto Arnez stated that the draft bill clearly and categorically establishes that the public servants are granted the right to form their unions.

Minister Arnez pointed out that this draft bill anuls article no 104 of the General Labor Law. He also pointed out that the events prove that the Bolivian public servants have had their unions for over 20 years.

[Begin Arnez recording] Events prove that the Bolivian public servants have had their unions for over 20 years with the exception of the years when the country was ruled by dictatorships which banned union activities. Labor unions are functioning normally during this constitutional period. What we are going to do is to definitely legalize their functioning. The government favors that unions function legally with the limitations which are appropriate to the nature of the public servants job, especially those working in the Presidency, the Interior Ministry, the Armed Forces, police, etc., and limitations which [passage indistinct] and this is what the draft bill currently under study refers to. [end recording]

MOSCOW ANNOUNCES DELEGATION VISIT WITH PCB

PY250153 Moscow in Spanish to Latin America 2300 GMT 24 Feb 83

[From the newscast]

[Text] A CPSU delegation has ended a visit to Bolivia. This delegation is headed by Aleksandr Kapto, candidate member of the CPSU Central Committee and secretary of the Ukranian Communist Party Central Committee.

The Soviet delegation, which visited Bolivia at the invitation of the Bolivian Communist Party [PCB] Board, held meetings with members of the Political Committee of the PCB Central Committee. Jorge Kolle Cueto, first secretary of the PCB Central Committee, briefed the Soviet delegates about the situation in Bolivia, about the PCB struggle for democracy and for the strengthening of the country's independence.

The Soviet delegation expressed solidarity with the struggle of the PCB and of all the Bolivian people.

DIPLOMAT SAYS PANAMA SUPPORTS SEAPORT CAUSE

PY242119 La Paz Radio Illimani Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 24 Feb 83

[Excerpt] This morning Senator Julio Garret Ayllon received (Juan Manuel Casilovich), permanent Panamanian representative to the OAS.

During the meeting the Panamanian diplomat stated that his country will support Bolivia's century-old cause to overcome its landlocked situation and will follow the strengthening of the democratic process started late last year.

BRIEFS

BUBONIC PLAGUE REPORT -- The Public Health and Social Security Ministry has reported that 28 cases of bubonic plague, 5 of which were fatal, have been reported in Franz Tamayo Province, La Paz Department, since November last year. [La Paz PRESENCIA in Spanish 20 Feb 83 p 10 PY]

OIL PRODUCTION DROP -- The National Statistics Institute has reported that production of crude oil and petroleum condensate dropped by approximately 25 percent from 1978 to 1982. From a total of 11,844,276 barrels in 1978, production of crude oil and petroleum condensate dropped to 8,921,203 barrels in 1982. [La Paz PRESENCIA in Spanish 14 Feb 83 p 3 PY]

NEW OIL REFINERY -- On 17 February, Bolivian Government oil deposits and the U.S. firm (Trentan) signed an agreement to build an oil refinery in Vuelta Grande, located in Luis Calvo Province in Chuquisaca Department. Bolivian Energy Minister Jorge Medina Pinedo stated during the ceremony that the oil refinery will produce 5,000 barrels of oil, 80 million cubic feet of gas and 200 tons of liquified natural gas daily. The Vuelta Grande oilfield was discovered in 1978. [La Paz Cadena Panamericana in Spanish 0000 GMT 23 Feb 83 PY]

CACEX DIRECTOR MOREIRA RESIGNS IN POLICY DISPUTE

PY250151 Rio de Janeiro LATIN AMERICA DAILY POST in English 24 Feb 83 p 1

[By Stan Lehman]

[Excerpt] Sao Paulo -- Benedito Moreira, director of Cacex [Foreign Trade Department], the government's foreign trade bureau, and considered one of the government officials most responsible for the success of Brazil's export drive, handed in his resignation Wednesday. With Brazil's economic survival dependent in large part on the achievement of a $6 billion trade surplus by the end of this year. The resignation of the 53-year-old Moreira, Cacex director since 1968, could not have come at a worse movement.

According to the Finance Ministry, to which he was subordinated, the resignation was accepted by President Joao Figueiredo who is expected to select Moreira's successor next week.

The name being most mentioned as Cacex new director is Carlos Viacava, the Finance Ministry's secretary general.

One day before turning in his resignation, Moreira met with reporters and made it clear that "if something very special happens" he would reconsider his decision. But that "something very special" never materialized.

The exact reasons for Moreira's resignation are still not known but during his meeting with reporters he gave vent to his frustrations over what he considered was a lack of teamwork between himself and other officials in the economic area. It was this lack of teamwork, as perceived by Moreira, that made him step down.

After commenting at length over the importance of cooperation amongst government officials, Moreira told the reporters "but at times you get the feeling that you are talking to yourself."

Most observers agree that the point of no return in terms of Moreira's decisions to quit was the fact that the government did not consult him on the 30 percent maxi-devaluation of the cruzeiro which went into effect on Monday. Moreira was also apparently upset over not being consulted on the list of products which will have their export tax increased in an attempt to counterbalance the negative effects of the "maxi".

Observers point out that Moreira has been at odds with Planning Minister Antonio Delfim Netto and Finance Minister Ernane Galveas for quite some time.

PRIVATE SECTOR REACTS TO MAXIDEVALUATION

PY242332 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 23 Feb 83

["Text" of telegram sent 22 February by Luis Eulalio de Bueno Vidigal Filho, president of the Sao Paulo State Federation of Industries (FIESP) to Brazilian Planning Minister Delfim Netto and Economy Minister Ernane Galveas]

[Text] The government has adopted a policy of compelling local enterprises to contract loans in foreign currency. This policy has been implemented either through high interest rates on local currency loans or through restrictions on those loans. Moreover, even local enterprises with available resources were forced to obtain foreign financing for their imports.

Therefore, it would be unreasonable to put the burden of the maxidevaluation -- a measure that affects the entire nation -- precisely on those who contributed to the implementation of the above economic policy and who used their resources to increase production.

On the basis of the above considerations, FIESP's executive council unanimously approved a proposal to be submitted to the government. The proposal was approved at a meeting attended by FIESP representatives.

The executive council and FIESP representatives agree that the only just measure that will permit the industrial sector to meet its minimum essential requirements will be to give foreign currency borrowers the option of repaying the debts they contracted before 17 February 1983, along with the interest due, over the next 3 years and with an exchange rate readjusted on the basis of the value of ORTN's [National Treasury readjustable orders] and of the exchange rate on the above date.

This option would not apply to deposits made on the above date in keeping with resolution 432 and note 230 issued by the Central Bank.

In the certainty that your excellencies will pay due attention to this request, we remain truly yours."

ARMY TO REDUCE AMMUNITION, EQUIPMENT IMPORTS

PY250123 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 23 Feb 83 p 27

[Excerpts] Brasilia -- The Army will have to reduce its ammunition imports. But the Navy and the Air Force will be most affected by the maxidevaluation of the cruzeiro, because their equipment is more sophisticated and to a large extent imported. Military sources made this statement yesterday. The consequences of the maxidevaluation are still being studied in the three ministries. Great expectations prevail regarding complementary measures that might be adopted by the government. One of these measures could be the rescheduling of the debts already contracted abroad.

According to a wide-ranging report published yesterday by the ARMY BULLETIN [NOTICIARIO DO EXERCITO], the journal published by the office of Army Minister Walter Pires, one of the objectives of the military administration is to use domestically made Army equipment, including spare parts and components which are currently imported, with the objective of restricting imports to the minimum essential to keep the Army operating.

DELAY IN AIR FORCE MISSILE PRODUCTION POSSIBLE

PY240246 Sao Paulo FOLHA DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 20 Feb 83 p 6

[Text] Brasilia -- This year's Brazilian Air Force budget foresees the development of the infrared Piranha missile. The date for beginning production has not been set yet, but delays are likely in view of the cuts in the Air Ministry budget. Air Ministry sources report that production will depend on various factors that are still unpredictable, like national industrial capability. Only upon completion of the missile development program will it be possible to estimate the missile cost and the investment needed for production.

The missile, specially fitted for air combat, was designed by the Aerospace Technology Center located in Sao Jose dos Campos. The missile is primarily designed to raise the firepower of the Brazilian Air Force, which would then have a locally produced weapon that the military regards as modern, efficient and free from international political restrictions.

PINOCHET COMMENTS ON CALL FOR DEMOCRATIZATION

PY250112 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 2200 GMT 24 Feb 83

[Graciela Contreras relay from Collaique]

[Text] President Pinochet stated today that some can say whatever they want but that does not make what they say any more relevant to the process of the country's new institutional system. This remark was made regarding the declaration made this morning in Santiago by members of Proden [Plan for the Development of a National Consensus] who, among other things, propose that the executive and legislative functions be concentrated in the government junta and that the junta should rule for 2 years, calling elections within 6 months to create a unicameral congress of 120 representatives who will assume their function 30 days after the elections.

In Puerto Aysen, President Pinochet was asked about these proposals and he replied that a Constitution, approved by the nation's majority, is in force and that its provisions are being enacted step by step. Some can say whatever they want, but that does not make what they say relevant to the process of the new institutional system.

Asked whether the Proden declaration in Santiago is subversive and violates the political recess, Pinochet noted that it may well be subversive and that it might also be a violation of the political recess. The truth is that they are trying to create problems any way they can, Pinochet added.

Addressing the community of Puerto Aysen, Pinochet said that the government will continue implementing all actions it can so as to increase employment or, failing that, to temporarily assist the needy in direct ways.

At a reception held for the president at the municipal gymnasium of Puerto Aysen, Pinochet stated that now more than ever internal peace and security must be maintained as a basic requirement for the normal development of the country's activities. He emphasized that this climate of peace, tranquility and security is a prized achievement of his government, and that, fortunately, sporadic acts intended to disturb this climate have not made headway in Chile.

BRIEFS

FOREIGN DEBT SCHEDULE -- Chile will have to pay $15,476,000,000 in the period 1983-86 to service the principal and interests of its public and private foreign debt, according to estimates made by the International Monetary Fund based on data provided by the Chilean Central Bank. This year Chile will have to pay $3,641,000,000 to service its foreign debt: $1,165,000,000 for the public sector, and $2,476,000,000 for the private sector. [Santiago EL MERCURIO in Spanish 26 Jan 83 p B-1 PY]

CONSUMER PRICE INDEX -- The consumer price index increased by 1.8 percent in January. This percentage is broken down as follows: .8 percent, housing; .7 percent, miscellaneous; food, .2 percent; and clothing, .1 percent. [Santiago TERCERA DE LA HORA in Spanish 5 Feb 83 p 5 PY]

TRADE SURPLUS -- The Chilean Central Bank has reported that trade during the first 27 days of January has reached a surplus of $63.8 million. This surplus was achieved when our exports reached a total of $236.7 million while imports totaled $172.9 million. It is appropriate to mention that exports during January reached a level very similar to that achieved in January 1982. The 1983 trade balance showed a surplus of $218.1 million. [Santiago EL MERCURIO in Spanish 15 Feb 83 p B-1 PY]

BETANCUR ADDRESSES JIMINEZ GOMEZ ON MAS

PA230019 Bogota Domestic Service in Spanish 1730 GMT 21 Feb 83

[Letter sent by Colombian President Belisario Betancur to Attorney General Carlos Jimenez Gomez on 20 February -- read by announcer]

[Text] Dear Mr Attorney General: With regard to the report that you sent to me dated 4 February 1983, we hereby state the following; the judicial decisions made in the name of the republic and by the authority of the law will be respected and enforced without hesitation; and the government will always be ready to cooperate without limitations and without placing conditions on the attorney general's office, whenever that office considers it appropriate in the area of the Armed Forces and the various institutions that protect our sovereignty by constitutional mandate, which the attorney general's office considers to be free of all [word indistinct] and doubt.

In accordance with article 143 of the Constitution, the officials of the attorney general's office have the duty to defend the nation's interests; promote the implementation of the laws, judicial sentences and administrative (?provisions); supervise the official conduct of the public employees; and prosecute the crimes and violations that disrupt social order.

In the exercise of those functions, the attorney general's office has been undertaking investigations through its criminal [words indistinct] in order to establish [establecer] and learn of cases of violence in various regions of the country that are attributed to the organization that is known for various reasons as MAS [Death to Kidnappers]. As a result of those investigations, the attorney general issued the 4 February report which ruled out the existence of that organization and attributed the various actions to a crisis mentality and to a kind of criminality expressed [words indistinct]. At the end of the report, the attorney general said he would ask the appropriate authorities to initiate the corresponding penal processes. I replied to that announcement of the attorney general, indicating that the appropriate institutions will have -- as you will recognize has been done with regard to the activities of the attorney general's office -- the broadest and most respectful cooperation of all the government authorities.

I read in today's press the report that the attorney general, the criminal investigative judges and the special agents of the attorney general's office have issued to the public. It indicated that in view of the evidence gathered thus far during the investigations there are enough charges to legally involve a total of 163 people, including 59 active Armed Forces members. It is also announced that the corresponding reports will be turned over to the appropriate authorities.

As supreme chief of the Armed Forces, I assume that these accusations are derived from the preliminary investigations, and that those people have yet to be heard in the respective penal processes. Since they are being publicly accused, there is no doubt that the attorney general's office will see that within the appropriate legal steps all rights will be guaranteed so that each of the accused individuals can explain his conduct. The Armed Forces will of course broadly cooperate so that each case will be totally and completely cleared up, all the more since it has been absolutely established that it is not a situation of institutional involvement but of particular cases and that they [words indistinct].

It is logical that the members of the armed institution, which has provided so many noble services to the nation in defense of its institutions, should publicly defend themselves when they are publicly accused.

For years the country has seen apparent or real confrontations between members of the different branches of government and state institutions. This practice has to be eradicated from the national life because a constitutional mandate must prevail above personal views and opinions. That mandate establishes that despite the separation of powers, harmonious cooperation should exist to achieve the objectives of the state.

In this case, and since the preliminary investigations by the attorney general's office do not involve the public force as an institution, it will be up to each of the accused when they are given the opportunity to be heard in trials to provide their defense.

The Colombian president's position on the subjects that the attorney general presented in the 25 January case is thus clearly established. I will continue by all means to respect the institutions, the autonomy of Congress, the independence of judges and the jurisdiction of the attorney general's office; and I will insist on the search for understanding among Colombians.

A national government such as the one I head will not distort or twist its character or its paths to disregard the interests of the Colombians whatever their condition, function, responsibility or opinion on the problems we are experiencing. We must overcome as best we can the long night of violence, confusion and disorder that we have experienced so that the fatherland will have a new image and so that the modernization of the state will very soon lead to greater well-being for all the sons of Colombia. My aim is peace because I know that throughout the years values have been distorted and we have been slowly advancing toward anarchy and self-destruction. (?I have) raised the banner of peace and antisectarianism. Justice, order, freedom and the absolute protection of rights will prevail over any other consideration. The authorities and the institutions must act and function in this sense.

Yours very truly,

Belisario Betancur.

STATE COUNCIL STUDIES ATTORNEY GENERAL'S CHARGES

PA240120 Bogota Cadena Radial Super in Spanish 0000 GMT 23 Feb 83

[Edgar Artunduaga report: "Politics Without Fear']

[Text] The confrontation between the attorney general and the military men has passed to the State Council, which will mediate in the dispute. The State Council has decided to begin studying a proposal presented by State Council member [name indistinct]. In the proposal, he describes as [word indistinct] unconstitutional and illegal the practice of the attorney general who, with flagrant prejudgment, has [word indistinct] civilians and military men as in the case of the MAS [Death to Kidnappers] investigation.

The State Council member said that only severe and inexorable punishment of the attorney general can return tranquillity and security to Colombia. The surprising and difficult proposal that will be studied by a subcommission comprising State Council members (Jaime Paredes), (Joaquin) [last name indistinct], (Eduardo Fortin) and (Alvaro Orfela) was learned a few minutes ago by the "Supernoticias" reporters. If the State Council approves this proposal, it will send a letter to the Chamber of Representatives asking for a sanction against Attorney General Jimenez Gomez. The Chamber of Representatives has exclusive power to do this because it elects the attorney general.

The full letter from [Defense Minister] Gen Landazabal Reyes on the attorney general's accusations about the involvement of military men in MAS has yet to be learned.

In any case, the situation is tense and at the high levels of Narino Palace and the government there is concern about this decisive moment for Colombian democracy.

PRESIDENCY, MILITARY TERMED 'PARALLEL' POWERS

PA241735 Bogota EL ESPECTADOR in Spanish 15 Feb 83 p 3-a

[By Alfredo Vazquez Carrizosa: "The Paradox of Strong Power"]

[Excerpts] The presidential power in Colombia is an example of a strong state. It was conceived that way by those who drafted the 1886 Constitution. The paradox in the second half of the 20th century, as the date of the Constitution's centennial draws near, is that a parallel power, the military, has now emerged. This development was not foreseen in the original draft prepared by 18 crowned eminences in the National Council of Delegates.

Today we can appreciate the great power wielded by the Colombian president. Through special decrees issued under a so-called economic emergency, the private-economy system can be changed overnight without consulting anyone, in the hope that both the Supreme Court of Justice and Congress will bow to the fait accompli.

The laws regulating the honors accorded the illustrious dead and parliamentary salaries are gradually becoming the only subjects that fall within the exclusive purview of Congress. The rest can be done by the strong executive branch, which orders, reforms, discriminates, authorizes and amends everything.

The two greatest powers in Colombia are the civilian and the military. The prolonged implementation of the state of siege -- a sin committee by all parties once in power -- has transformed the Constitution, raising a power that runs parallel to that of the Presidency, which it virtually controls. In addition to huge and irreparable human and material losses, 9 April 1948 meant the loss of Colombia's civilian image. Since then, the heads of state has his 12 ministers and the Armed Forces have theirs.

Former President Julio Cesar Turbay yielded a good deal of his power to former defense minister Gen Luis Carlos Camacho Leyva, in line with a practice followed by the National Front governments, which felt stronger facing the social phenomena created by dissatisfaction under a state of siege and with the military sector's support.

Although the state of siege was lifted in 1982, the parallel military power has persisted. Defense Minister Gen Fernando Landazabal's editorial explaining a viewpoint on amnesty, which differs from the view so bravely held by President Betancur, is further tangible evidence of the parallelism that exists in Colombia between the civilian and the military powers.

"After the earthquake caused by General Landazabal's editorial in the military forces' newspaper subsided, it is suitable and necessary to ask if the country is better off with a deliberating Army, or if the express prohibition currently in effect in our fundamental charter should be maintained," Medellin's liberal paper EL MUNDO has clearly noted.

PETROLEUM SALES FALL, TRADE PROBLEMS WORSEN

PA230615 Quito Voz de los Andes in Spanish 1130 GMT 22 Feb 83

[Text] Ecuadorean trade problems have gotten worse, because in the past few days Ecuador has not been able to sell its petroleum as it normally would. This situation has reportedly resulted in an accumulation of approximately 4 million barrels of crude oil.

Government officials of the Natural Resources and Energy Ministry and the Ecuadorean State Petroleum Corporation did not comment on Nigeria's announcement that it will lower the price of petroleum by $5.50.

However, Vice President Leon Roldos said the situation is worrisome. He urged government officials to help in any way possible so that Ecuador can join other OPEC countries in finding a solution to the price crisis. According to Roldos, the situation is difficult, and the outlook in the international oil market is not likely to change for 3-6 months.

According to some analysts, Ecuador presently faces serious trade problems. They disclosed that the country has been receiving low offers for its oil, and at the same time those who purchase through long-term contracts have suspended negotiations to observe the international market's behavior.

Due to all these problems, Ecuador's foreign exchange reserves on 31 January 1983 dropped to their lowest level since 1972, the year when the country began exporting oil. Foreign exchange reserves totaled $157 million, compared to $210 million in December 1982, a decrease of 25 percent in 1 month.

POLICE TEAR GAS STUDENTS IN LEGISLATIVE PALACE

PA240443 Quito Cadena Ecuador Radio in Spanish 2300 GMT 23 Feb 83

[Report by (Felix Narvez) at the National Chamber of Representatives in Quito]

[Excerpt] Several large windows broken, the heavy smell of tear gas and the arrest of some individuals are the results of the dispersin of student demonstrators by the police from around and inside the Legislative Palace.

Around 1800 a large group of secondary and university students tried to enter the Legislative Palace, attempting to find places in the audience section of the room where the Chamber of Representatives sometimes holds its plenary sessions. The group of shouting demonstrators was so large that the police began to prevent them from entering, thus leading to a defiant attitude by the demonstrators. The police had to take drastic measures, and used tear gas and pursued the demonstrators through nearby streets. In any case, the incidents did not prevent the holding of the session in which the alleged irregularities in the (Santai) case continue to be investigated.

U.S., ISRAELI HOSTAGES RELEASED BY STRIKERS

PY242108 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 0114 GMT 24 Feb 83

[Text] Lima, 24 Feb (TELAM) -- The eight technicians -- four U.S. and four Israeli citizens -- who had been kept hostage in the building of an agency of the Agriculture Ministry by employees on strike there, have been released.

Government sources have reported that the strikers had abandoned the building of the Agricultural Research Institute where the foreign technicians work, thus letting the technicians go free and unharmed.

BRAZILIAN AIR FORCE MINISTER ON OFFICIAL VISIT

PY221710 Paris AFP in Spanish 2245 GMT 21 Feb 83

[Text] Lima, 21 Feb (AFP) -- Peruvian President Fernando Belaunde Terry met this afternoon with Brazilian Air Force Minister Delio Jardim de Mattos who has been in Lima since Sunday afternnon.

Brig Delio Jardim de Mattos, who arrived at Government Palace a little after noon time accompanied by Peruvian Air Force Minister Hernan Boluarte, held a 20-minute private meeting with President Belaunde.

Jardim de Mattos is on an official 3-day visit in Peru during which his schedule includes meetings with the Peruvian president, his Peruvian collegaue Boluarte, with the Peruvian Air Force commander, Gen (Jose Zlatar Stambo), and other Peruvian officials.

EL COMERCIO QUESTIONS INTERIOR'S RINCON BAZO

PY250006 Lima EL COMERCIO in Spanish 13 Feb 83 p A 4

[Undated interview granted by Interior Minister Fernando Rincon Bazo to EL COMERCIO -- place not given]

[Excerpts] [Question] Last Monday you stated that you had considered the possibility of resigning. What stopped you from doing it?

[Answer] When President Belaunde appointed me interior minister, I accepted the post with all the risks it entailed because I am a Peruvian and not because I ever pursued it or craved it. When the president signed the decree appointing me to the post, I placed my resignation in his hands because the person who fills this post must have the president's confidence. I will resign when I lose the confidence of the president the prime minister and the cabinet. Believe you me that it would be much easier for me to be at home, but I would have a guilty conscience about avoiding responsibility when I was needed to face a difficult situation.

[Question] So the president has your resignation in his hands?

[Answer] Yes. He has my resignation in his hands so that he can accept it whenever he decides to or decides that I am betraying the confidence he has placed in me.

[Question] It was believed that, despite "all the accusations" [cargamonton] against you, you refrained from resigning to prevent a cabinet crisis before the cabinet was introduced to congress.

[Answer] You are always exposed to slander and insults when you participate in political activities. However, nobody will overwhelm Rincon becuase I always speak up and I assume my responsibility instead of evading it. However, you should not expect the interior minister to be a "star" because I will be known for my actions and not for my words. Some people can use lofty and lyrical language but I am not a poet.

[Question] What do you think of the attitudes of some members of democratic groups which, as you have said, are destabilizing the government?

[Answer] Some persons, who President Belaunde has described as sharks, are making harsh accusations against the government. However, these minority groups will not endanger the government. I admit that there are individuals who are consciously or unconsciously endangering the democratic government by trying to keep the three branches of government at odds with each other, however, these individuals will not succeed.

[Question] What you said just now has been interpreted in Peru and also abroad as a sign that we are on our way to a military regime. Are you warning of the possibility of a coup?

[Answer] No, no. I am convinced from the statements made by the war minister and by the president of the Joint Command of the Armed Forces and from the support they expressed to me for the defense of the democratic system, that democracy is by no means in jeopardy. The destabilization I am talking about will not necessarily come about through a coup because the Armed Forces have shown through their words and above all through their deeds that they believe in and respect our Constitution.

[Question] What are the risks of destabilization you are talking about?

[Answer] What I am referring to is the possibility of a confrontation between the Armed Forces and the civilian government. The persons responsible for it would be the anarchists who, however, do not realize that both servicemen and civilians are all Peruvians. Fortunately, the Armed Forces are aware of this and know what these criminals are after.

[Question] What are the characteristics of communist cell "W" you have referred to?

[Answer] It has two characteristics. First, it is a clandestine cell and, second, it is made up of individuals who are always changing their names and using false names.

[Question] Is this cellmade up of Peruvians or is it a purely foreign cell?

[Answer] The cell includes foreigners.

[Question] Have other cells been tracked down in Peru?

[Answer] Look, this issue is being thoroughly investigated by the police. I would not like to make any statements without having enough information and evidence. I will reveal everything in due time. I regret not being able to give more information to you now. The members of the cell will be put at the disposal of the courts after they are captured.

[Question] So they have not been captured yet?

[Answer] No.

[Question] Changing the subject, how is the country's domestic situation?

[Answer] The people are not aware of many things because of all the accusations being made agaist the interior minister. Nobody has pointed out, for example, that a record amount of more than 200 kg of cocaine base was seized in less than a month.

[Question] Have the officials who used Interior Ministry documents for blackmailing resigned already?

[Answer] No.

[Question] But do you know who they were?

[Answer] An investigation has been requested. I would have been proud of those brave enough to say "Yes sir, I was and here is my resignation." However, nobody claimed responsibility for it. This is what I call "white terrorism." The people are not assuming their responsibility. I have confidence that the courts will sooner or later identify at every level the guilty parties. I would like to take this opportunity to clarify something that has not been well understood: When a person respects the branches of the government, he has the duty to show it. It has been said that I took too long to give an account. In view of my respect for Congress, which had requested a report on the status of this Chilean citizen, I could not make any statements before the congressmen were familiar with the issue. Then came the filing of an habeas corpus plea. Here again I could not make any statements before the court made a decision, because the judicial branch was hearing the case. Many people have forgotten that this is how one should proceed under a democracy. My respect for each of the branches of the government, caused me to remain prudently silent until things calmed down and I could call on all Peruvians to act with equanimity.

[Question] We would like to know the following in connection with the case of the Chilean citizen you have just mentioned. Although the Constitution provides that only the president and the Chamber of Deputies can remove ministers from their posts, why did you not resign out of moral principles following the judicial decision in this regard?

[Answer] I did not resign because we all have our own conscience and moral principles, and my actions were not in conflict with them.

MISSION LEAVES FOR OIL TALKS WITH ARAB STATES

FL241100 Bridgetown CANA in English 1003 GMT 24 Feb 83

[By Walker Simon]

[Text] Mexico City, Feb 24, CANA-REUTER -- Mexico's energy minister, accompanied by senior Mexican oil policy makers, left yesterday for Paris for talks on crude with Arab Gulf states, the ministry said. The delegation, led by Energy Minister Francisco Labastida Ochoa, was to meet with British and Gulf state officials to "trade points of view on how decisions were being taken" on the world oil market, the statement said. The mission left aboard a plane belonging to the state-owned oil company Petroleos Mexicanos (Pemex), a Foreign Ministry official said, adding that their first European destination was London.

The news followed the disclosure in Riyadh yesterday of a high-level OPEC source who said that senior Mexican officials would soon meet Kuwaiti Oil Minister Ali Khalifa al-Sabah in Europe to discuss details of a Mexican-Gulf state accord on crude. The OPEC source said that Mexico, a non-OPEC oil exporter whose rising output has contributed to the world oil glut, had agreed to cooperate with the Gulf states on crude pricing and production.

Spokesmen for the president's office, the Foreign Ministry and the Energy Ministry said they had no information on the reported accord.

According to the Riyadh source, the agreement between Mexico and Gulf exporters Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, the United Arab Emirates and Qatar followed secret contacts between Mexican and Saudi officials.

The statement raised speculation among analysts that a possible accord could have been discussed last January when Deputy Energy Minister Ernesto Mendoza Berrueto and Deputy Foreign Minister Eduardo Navarrete travelled to Saudi Arabia. They noted that the same deputy energy and foreign ministers were accompanying Mr Labastida on his trip to Europe.

Mexico, the world's fourth biggest oil producer, last year bucked market trends and steadily increased its exports from 1.04 barrels per day (bpd) in January to a record 1.8 million barrels (bpd) by November. In the process, Mexico displaced Saudi Arabia as the number one crude supplier of the United States.

Unfettered by OPEC restrictions, Mexico, since its last price cut 12 months ago, is offering U.S. Gulf refiners its isthmus crude, transport costs included, for 2.00-2.50 dollars under the price tag for the comparable Saudi light, industry analysts said.

Mexico has said it will announce new petroleum prices by next Friday, but cautioned that any "adjustments" will not necessarily match the recent price drops of North Sea and Nigerian crudes.

GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS DISCUSS OIL POLICY 17 FEB

PA241754 Mexico City UNOMASUNO in Spanish 18 Feb 83 p 7

[Text] Francisco Labastida Ochoa, secretary of energy, mines and semi-state [paraestatal] industry, [bureau files list him as patrimony and industrial development secretary] has said that in view of the instability of the international market, the confusing information and downward pressures on oil prices, the Mexican Government "will act calmly, at the right time and without losing the market." He added that thus far Mexico "has not been pressured into reducing its prices" although "some clients have delayed using their quotas."

Yesterday, during the opening of the forum of popular consultation on energy and mining, Labastida and Energy Under Secretary Eliseo Mendoza Berrueto explained the following points:

-- There is a tendency toward and a risk of a reduction in oil prices.

-- In view of the conditions of the oil market, which are being watched closely, "we must not make any decision yet. We must wait."

-- There have been no problems with Pemex's clients.

-- The San Jose agreement, which contains advantages and disadvantages, is under review.

-- Oil income this year will total $17 billion.

Upon opening the forum, Labastida said: "We are not trying to define our major national objectives because they have already been established. We know what we are after: strengthening the nation's sovereignty and raising the Mexican people's standard of living. We must work together to find specific procedures, the specific paths to obtain more foreign exchange, substitute for imports, generate jobs and promote regional development as well as technological development in the fields which are fundamental to the nation." In view of this situation, he said, Mexico has responsibly handled its policy on oil production and marketing.

Labastida admitted later during an interview that some clients have delayed receiving their oil but said that the delay is not currently regarded as excessive. In 1981, when there was a glut on the oil market, some of Mexico's clients failed to pick up their oil. This forced Mexico to reduce its production substantially.

Labastida Ochoa said that "we would never advocate a reduction in oil prices. It would be advisable to review the problem in its overall context, i.e., production and prices, and to achieve market stability in both purchases and sales as well as prices as these may be established. Due to the oil market's impact on the world economy, instability causes problems of great magnitude throughout the world.

He admitted that over 50 percent of Mexico's oil exports have been funneled toward the United States in over a year.

The official commented on the San Jose agreement by which Mexico and Venezuela agreed to guarantee the supply of crude on a 5-year credit basis to Central American and Caribbean countries. He said that agreement is under review because it has proved to have some advantages but also some disadvantages. No decision has been made in this regard because the matter not only involves a commerical issue but also solidarity with the development of these nations, he said.

Finally, Labastida Ochoa said that Mexico will maintain a calm attitude in regard to the oil market and, in an effort to achieve market stability, will keep in touch with all producing countries.

For his part, Mendoza Berrueto described the current situation on the oil market as the most critical ever. Mexico maintains a clear-cut and sensible commercial attitude through contracts. He reported that Mexico "has never been officially invited" to join OPEC and that the tour of a mission he headed through several countries in January was a fact-finding tour.

During the meeting, the official came out in favor of using alternate energy sources because it is not possible to misuse talent and resources during an era of reorganization and economic austerity.

Fernando Hiriart Valderrama, director of the Federal Electricity Commission, also participated in the forum of popular consultation. He announced measures to expand the operational reliability and productivity of the electricity sector by providing more information to users. [as published]

Rogelio Montemayor, programing under secretary of the SPB [Secretariat of Programming and Budget] asserted that, more than ever, the people are now demanding an honest, efficient and dynamic attitude on the part of officials. He outlined the objectives of democratic planning which the current administration is trying to institutionalize.

FRANCE'S ANTOINE BLANCA ENDS AREA VISIT

FL231308 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0241 GMT 23 Feb 83

[Text] Mexico City, 22 Feb (NOTIMEX) -- Mexican Foreign Secretary Bernardo Sepulveda Amor and French roving envoy Antoine Blanca have agreed that the problems of Latin American countries are of a socioeconomic nature and can only be solved, both internally and abroad, through dialogue and political negotiation.

Sepulveda Amor and Blanca held talks today and said that the Mexican and French Governments concur in their view of Latin American problems. Blanca is ending in Mexico a tour he made of Panama, Costa Rica, Nicaragua, Honduras and Guatemala.

Sepulveda Amor offered a banquet for Blanca at the Foreign Secretariat where they continued their talks. Representatives of the Senate, the Chamber of Deputies and the Institutional Revolutionary Party, as well as officials of the Foreign Secretariat participated in the talks.

SEPULVEDA TO VISIT JAPAN EN ROUTE TO NEW DELHI

FL232328 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2240 GMT 23 Feb 83

[Text] Mexico City, 23 Feb (NOTIMEX) -- Mexico's Foreign Secretary Bernardo Sepulveda Amor will pay an official visit to Japan from 2 to 5 March, and afterward will travel to New Delhi to participate in the Nonaligned Movement summit. In a communique, the Mexican Foreign Secretariat announced that Sepulveda Amor will hold talks in Tokyo with government officials to examine bilateral matters dealing with economic, financial, scientific and cultural cooperation. He will also discuss matters related to the Central American and Caribbean situation as well as to Asia and the Far East. At the conclusion of his visit to Japan, the foreign secretary will travel to New Delhi, India, where he will lead the Mexican delegation which will participate in the seventh Nonaligned Movement summit conference from 7 to 11 March as an observer.

GUATEMALA TO DISCUSS RETURNS OF REFUGEES

FL231610 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0440 GMT 23 Feb 83

[Text] Guatemala City, 22 Feb (NOTIMEX) -- It was reported here today that Mexican Foreign Secretary Bernardo Sepulveda Amor and Guatemalan Foreign Minister Eduardo Castillo Arriola will discuss the repatriation of 30,000 Guatemalan refugees who are in Mexican territory. According to a DPA dispatch, Sepulveda Amor and Castillo Arriola will hold talks in Cartagena, Colombia, where they will meet soon. The repatriation or voluntary return of Guatemalan refugees has been proposed under the auspices of the UN High Commissioner [for refugees] with the participation of the Mexican Government in order to solve the problem definitely, DPA added.

It has been reported that Guatemalan refugees setteled near the border live in deplorable conditions. Castillo Arriola stated that several incidents occurred in the past few weeks and the Guatemalan Government wants to solve this problem. He added that the refugees' return would be done for humanitarian reasons and only on a voluntary basis, in order to return the refugees to their places of origin where they will reportedly receive the necessary assistance to relocate them safely. The participation of the Mexican and Guatemalan Governments and the intervention of the United Nations have been proposed for the transfer of refugees so that, once in Guatemalan territory, agencies such as the Committee for Reconstruction, the Red Cross and others can begin helping them, DPA concluded.

ARMY DECLARES LOYALTY ON 70TH ANNIVERSARY

PA241428 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0921 GMT 21 Feb 83

[Text] Mexico City, 21 Feb (EFE) -- The Mexcian Army, which has not staged a single coup d'etat since it was established in 1913, reaffirmed its loyalty this weekend to President Miguel de la Madrid, who is under attack by the former bankers and the extreme right. On the occasion of the Mexican Army's 70th anniversary, General Vinicio Santoyo, chief of the Defense Secretariat's General Staff, said the following to the president, among other things:

"We are aware of the drama of our current situation, but more important is that we know what the problem is and that we can solve it. We feel that we need only a leader, the leader that you are, and we ask that you reaffirm to the Mexican people that the Armed Forces are deeply dedicated to the service of our country." The offer added that Mexico has confidence in its Armed Forces, who recognize the capacity of their government to lead them, and has faith in the future of a just and equalitarian society.

The president said in a message to the Armed Forces that "The most important concepts for the Mexican Army and Air Force today are institutional loyalty, fulfillment of duty, exemplary conduct before the people and the rejection of any commitment that implies dishonor." The president urged the Mexican soldiers to continue "your clean and brilliant record, which is based on honesty and patriotism." De La Madrid added that Mexico's current situation makes it essential that the Armed Forces promote stability and development if a confident advance toward the future is to be achieved.

PEASANTS HOLD VIOLENT CLASHES OVER LAND

FL241414 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0307 GMT 24 Feb 83

[Text] Ocoyoaca, State of Mexico, 23 Feb (NOTIMEX) -- Martin Sierra Flores, spokesman of the Democratic Broad Front [Frente Amplio Democratico] has reported that violent confrontations among peasants led by Roberto Ibarra, former leader of an ejido [system of communal land tenure], occurred again here today. These peasants attacked farmhands of la Campana Ejido with machetes and firearms. Sierra Flores reported that the incidents occurred this morning when Ibarra's people attacked and seriously injured 12 ejidatarios [communal landholders]. He explained that these incidents occurred because the inhabitants of the town rejected the expropriation of their lands which the state government was to use for the construction of a housing project. After the confrontation, the injured landholders took Rosendo and Jesus Ibarra, the former ejido leader's father and brother, hostage. They also took Pedro Acevedo and others who have not been identified yet. In view of this, Sierra Flores reported that the Democratic Broad Front will ask the attorney general's office and the Agrarian Reform Secretariat to settle the problem.

REPORTAGE ON CONTINUING REACTION TO PAREDES LETTER

Foreign Ministry Communique

PA242357 Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 2300 GMT 24 Feb 83

[Communique issued by the Panamanian Foreign Ministry; date not given -- read by announcer]

[Text] The Panamanian Foreign Ministry wishes to refer to statements made by the commander in chief of our armed institute, General Ruben Dario Paredes, regarding some activities that Everett Briggs, U.S. ambassador to Panama, carried out that are not in complete harmony with the usual rules of conduct for diplomats.

The public power in Panama, as stated in our national Constitution, comes from the people and is exercised by the executive, legislative and judicial branches, which act harmoniously among themselves and with the public force. Also, the National Guard is constitutionally responsible for national defense and the security of the country. The Foreign Ministry believes that this diplomat's activities, removed from the rules and regulations of the protocol, could affect matters that deal with national security.

The Panamanian Government firmly wishes to maintain the most cordial relations with the U.S. Government and friendly nations on the basis of respect of sovereignty, independence, territorial integrity and institutional life. In view of General Paredes' remarks on behalf of the National Guard General Staff, the Panamanian Foreign Ministry, in accordance with its executive and institutional responsibility, has taken the corresponding measures to maintain total application of the current provisions so that these actions will not occur again. To this effect, the Foreign Ministry has reiterated, to the representatives of the U.S. embassy and members of the diplomatic corps accredited in Panama, the importance and need to faithfully fulfill the rules of protocol. This proceedure will prevent future difficulties and adverse effects in the good development of cordial relations with foreign representatives in our country.

Radio Mia Warns Demonstrators

PA240359 Panama City Radio Mia Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 23 Feb 83

[Commentary by Julito Ortega]

[Text] The daily LA PRENSA carries on its front-page today a UPI-ANSA-DPA Panama datelined item announcing a demonstration at the U.S. Embassy today. The item says: A demonstration has been announced for today by members of FEP [Federation of Panamanian Students], the pro-government PRD [Democratic Revolutionary Party] and the Peoples Party -- communist -- together with workers and journalists unions, at the U.S. Embassy, after some 300 people picketed the installation Monday night and shouted anti-U.S. slogans.

One of the speakers at the demonstration was the secretary general of the official Democratic Revolutionary Party, Rigoberto Paredes, uncle of General Paredes. During his speech, Paredes said the letter to the U.S. Embassy constitutes an "incrimination."

This brings to mind the times when Fidel Castro assumed similar attitudes as he sent the people to picket the U.S. Embassy until he finally succeeded in breaking relations, and when later the so-called Masses Movement picketed other embassies, and so forth. I really cannot see what is behind all this.

The Panamanian people are well aware that the National Guard acted in defense of its interests and our national security.

Only the opposition political groups will disagree with everything, because if they find out U.S. Embassy officials are visiting the posts and meeting with officers and General Paredes says nothing, they accuse the U.S. Government of supporting the present government, and if he says anything, they will also disagree.

This type of massive mobilization or demonstration in front of the U.S. Embassy does no good. Perhaps we are now regretting what we did with the 1977 treaty and we are trying to create anti-U.S. sentiment because we do not want to join the gringos in defense of democracy and prefer to continue playing the pluralist game and the trips to Cuba and the visit of Cuban advisers. Therefore, since we do not want to follow the line being established by the North Americans, but prefer to continue playing around, we are now going to prepare an anti-U.S. image to give the impression that everyone here hates the gringos, although we continue to love their dollars.

I think it is time that those stirring up things, either of the official party or civilians in power, stop playing with fire or they may actually stir up a storm that will sweep them off the earth. This is not helping the officialist candidacy. This does not benefit the National Guard chief of staff. This does not benefit the country . Let us not stir up the sea.

And the worth of it is that as soon as we talk about these things, the phones start ringing. Why did nobody picket the social security when the scandel broke out? Where were the PRD members then? The only demonstration was that of the opposition. Where were the others?

Now, they organize this demonstration. Why? We warn you not to fool around with Reagan. The U.S. Government today is a Republican government. They think first of the United States; second, of the United States; third, of the United States. Then they may think of someone else. You cannot fool with them. So let us stop this type of unncessary demonstration because we are neither going to scare the gringos nor stop them from preventing the communist infiltration of Central America.

We are not the ones who will be able to stop them from coming in whenever they please, even if during the first 5 hours they come face to face with the 15,000 national guardsmen.

If this should lead to a world war they will drop by parachute or by boat, or will fly some of those F-4's right over us and destroy a bunch of television antennas. They will come here by land or however they choose. That is signing and included in the treaty. Torrijos was very honest regarding this matter. In Washington he said: We are under the Pentagon's umbrella Torrijos never fooled anyone. Therefore, I don't know what they are looking for. The people know that the United States, if we don't follow the lines of dialogue or pay attention to the many signs they are giving us through Kirkpatrick and probably also with the trips General Paredes will make to the Pentagon, they are going to come in. We are allowing this, we accept this. This a prophecy, the same as was made regarding the coming of the messiah.

When I see all this trouble brewing I have to think: Why were the gringos trying to find out things? They were trying to find out something, probably because they want to know whether or not we are following the lines. Since we don't want them to know whether we are or not, such things bother us. The only thing these demonstrations do is get the people to think.

Gentlemen, stop this. This is health advice. Don't mix with the communists. They are not good for the official candidacy. The people don't want communism. The people don't want communism.

The communists could play here when the quasi-communist Carter was in power in the United States. He was responsible for the fall of the shah, Somoza and the increase in guerrilla activity in El Salvador because he betrayed the friends of the United States. Reagan has said: I will not betray them. In the same manner that he will not betray his friends, however, he will not allow his so-called friends or associates to betray him.

So, unless you think that the gringos don't trust what we are doing and are probably seeing how they can get the boat to sail in their direction, you are frightened because of communist advice. Be careful, be careful. The country comes first and all these demonstrations and other things lead nowhere. The government has its support, people who like the government; it has stability. It is fragile but stable. They have told us this; we have stability.

So, if the officialist and communist groups are going to alter this peace and cause disorder only a few hours before the pope comes to visit, I think that the devil is sticking his hands in this matter.

Such situations only belong to the devil, and remember that in the beginning the devil was an angel. The hand of the devil must be in all this trying to overshadow the pope's arrival. Yes, sir. Gentlemen, we have to pray. We have to think of God and we have to mediate. It is Lent, the pope is coming for a visit, so the devil is now meddling here. Now the communists -- well they are the devil himself, they are the devil's ministers -- the communists are the devil, they are instruments of the devil, of evil. They don't believe in God, they don't even believe in their mother. No, genetlemen, let us try, let us all carry a cross around our neck. It seems as though all this were some kind of diabolic manipulation. The pope's visit is announced -- the pope is a messenger of peace -- and immediately the waves of evil, the devil's waves begin to alter peace, to incite demonstrations. Now there are many more nationalists than in the past but nationalists who support whom -- the devil?

Gentlemen, let us meditate, let us think of God and not allow ourselves to be used. Let us all pray to our father every day before we leave our homes and let us ask God to help us to make us an instrument of his peace, protect us from the temptations of ... [Remainder of item incomplete due to technical failure]

PAPO Communique on Affair

PA240205 Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish 23 Feb 83 p 11-A

[Text] The Peoples Action Party, PAPO, yesterday issued a communique on the conflict between General Ruben Dairo Parades and the U.S. Embassy in Panama. The communique reads as follows:

1. No foreign embassy has the right to meddle in Panama's internal affairs.

2. Since the beginning of the "process" in 1968, U.S. intervention in favor of the military government has been obvious.

3. Until recently, Ambler Moss, U.S. ambassador to Panama, had made the U.S. Embassy the military's best public relations office.

4. The charges made by the National Guard chief against the new U.S. ambassador of directly contacting mid-level National Guard officers in order to form ties with them reveal the country's absolute institutional disorder.

5. We reject and condemn any U.S. Embassy intervention in the National Guard commands, and we also criticize the National Guard habit of handling Panama's foreign policy by taking over functions that are the exclusive concern of the president of the republic and the foreign relations minister.

6. We charge that the alleged nationalist contents of the National Guard's statements are insincere, because historically it cannot play that role. By authorizing the United States to intervene in Panama, the National Guard has placed the country in perpetuity under "the Pentagon's unbrella."

7. PAPO reiterates its political line of seriously restructuring Panama's political institutions in order to prevent, among other things, the dull role of mere spectator offered to the president of the republic in handling foreign policy. This restructuring can only be achieved through a national constituent assembly in charge of drafting a constitution that will put the military in their garrisons with professional functions and restore to the president of the republic the indispensable dignity to manage the country's foreign policy.

[Signed] Dr Carlos Ivan Zuniga, president of the People's Action Party; Dr Winston Robles, president of the Political Committee; Alvin Weeden, secretary general

LA PRENSA Questions Note

PA232045 Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish 23 Feb 83 p 1

["As of Today" column]

[Excerpt] Since the creation of our republic, the United States has repeatedly intervened in the internal affairs of Panama, and it continues doing so -- as proved by the presence of thousands of soldiers in periodic maneuvers with the National Guard; the existence of the U.S. Southern Command; the School of the Americas; and other U.S. military establishments in Panamanian territory. Unfortunately, in all these cases it is an intervention authorized by the Torrijos-Carter treaties, which were imposed on Panama by the same National Guard which today intends to give us lessons in nationalism. It is secondary reasons, therefore, not unblemished patriotism or any ethical or juridical consideration, that motivates General Paredes' letter, because he has remained silent concerning what is vital for our nation. It was he who imposed the Monteria Treaty [with Colombia on Panama Canal transit] on the Assembly of Corregimiento Representatives, and he will go down in history with that blemish on his name.

Toriello Discusses Issue

PA241247 Havana International Service in Spanish 2315 GMT 23 Feb 83

[Interview with Guillermo Toriello, president of the Central American Anti-Imperialist Tribunal, by Pedro Martinez Pires in Havana; date not given -- recorded]

[Text] [Question] Dr Toriello, what is your opinion of the fact that the United States is once again intervening in Panama's internal affairs?

[Answer] The United States has been intervening in Panama since 1903, when it seized the canal. The problem has never been solved. Instead, there has been a shameless increase in U.S. intervention. Thus the case of Ambassador Everett Briggs, who tried to destabilize Panama by means of National Guard officers. This is why General Ruben Dario Paredes, Panama National Guard chief, sent a categorical letter to Ambassador Briggs asking him to stop meddling in Panama's internal affairs. This is a very significant letter, but equally significant is the Panamanian people's reaction, particularly that of the students, who staged massive demonstrations in support of the Panamanian Government's policy against U.S. intervention.

This demonstrates that which we at the anti-imperialist tribunal of our America have always said: The people will support their governments when their actions are a just part of the anti-imperialist struggle, a struggle that cannot be postponed any longer, because it is impossible to continue closing our eyes to the reality of our America. The fact is that the United States does not want to lose control over our countries and resources. That is why, today more than ever, the Latin American countries, particularly the people of Latin America, must unite to strengthen our solidarity and our anti-imperialist struggle.

[Question] Toriello, it has been said that the CIA is behind this maneuver, that Ambassador Briggs is a member of the CIA and that the plan to destabilize Panama is included in the Santa Fe declaration, which is supposedly Ronald Reagan's Republican Party platform. What do you have to say about this?

[Answer] It is true. Those are the factors that render this a serious incident. There is nothing else in the statement that Ambassador Briggs is a spy and a CIA agent. The U.S. State Department works in close and strict collaboration with the CIA. As for the Santa Fe declaration, I have referred to it and explained it in many of my interviews. As you so properly say, the Santa Fe declaration is the platform for Reagan's fascist government. Included in the Santa Fe declaration, which was a secret document in April and May 1980, are plans to prevent the consolidation of democracy in Panama and to oppose the anti-imperialist struggle gallantly waged by Omar Torrijos, who was murdered by the CIA, a fact of which I have proof.

MATUTINO on 'Fascist Swell'

PA240042 Panama City MATUTINO in Spanish 23 Feb 83 pp 9-A, 6-B

["The Melting Pot" column by Luis Castilla Bravo: "Alert Newsmen"]

[Text] At the very time a heroic people was cheering the memory of their former leader, Augusto Cesar Sandino, who lost his life with weapon in hand fighting against the U.S. colosus, U.S. media dispatches brought us reports that reaffirmed our concern over the constant signs indicating the birth of a somewhat fascist swell in Panama.

The newspapers BARRICADA and EL NUEVO DIARIO published the serious and dignified content of a warning letter sent by General Ruben Dario Paredes to the U.S. diplomatic mission accredited to our country.

We accepted the letter's content without doubt. We all know that when a ranking officer of our armed institute, especially at the high command level, makes a public charge against a mission belonging to our allies in the handling of the canal, he is doing so because the facts are so serious that his silence would imply putting the lid on a possible mass slaughter.

It is no secret to anyone that one of the favorite tactics of the designers of coups d'etat and "putsches" to overthrow democratic governments with evident characteristics of popular support, consists of provoking schisms in their pillars of support. These pillars may be the worker sector in the professional groups and, as in the case of Chile, the military institutions; in short, in each and every one of the branches that support the government they are planning to overthrow.

Chile is still warm in our minds. In the period preceding the fall of Salvador Allende, the fall was marked by the death of the foremost Chilean Army chief, who supported the government of popular unity that later continued with open challenges in the transportation sector, etc.

Strangely enough, suspicious occurences have been occurring in Panama, such as that of the tension produced in Chiriqui by the banana company about which we alerted our readers. Shortly thereafter, the person who helped design Allende's overthrow came to Panama with excessive affection and demonstrations of solidarity. The truths of Allende's fall were later aired publicly by the same agencies of the CIA which assisted in the overthrow.

If Panama did not have its doors wide open to the temporary allies in the administration of the canal, if relations between the two armed corps were strained, if the School of the Americas did not exist and if joint maneuvers were not held from time to time, we might believe in the good faith, good intentions and good desire to express friendly greetings to the authorities and peoples of the provinces that were visited.

It is precisely because harmonious relations exist between the two armies, between their highest representatives and between the presidents of the two nations that we cannot believe in the "good faith" of the acts that have taken place -- much less, when changes in the military structure are to be made before the end of the year on the occasion of the retirement of General Paredes and his probable participation in next year's elections.

The companeros of our late Commander Torrijos are too experienced to believe that at this point they are capable of jumping from an aircraft without a parachute. I am certain that the National Guard knows much more about the incidents that have taken place; this will be laid on the table at the proper time. Meanwhile I bring the message of solidarity of brother newsmen in Nicaragua, El Salvador and Uruguay, who as of now, General Paredes and Colonels Noriega and Diaz Herrera, are on a state of alert to support the just Panamanian struggles once more.

ASSEMBLY PRESIDENT ON GUARD ROLE IN POLITICS

PA080157 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 1715 GMT 7 Feb 83

[Text] Alfonso Sotero Govea, president of the Assembly of the people's government, has said while referring to that body's position on Article 2 of the national Constitution that from General Paredes down to the most humble member, all members of the National Guard are just as Panamanian as any civilian and have political rights and duties like any other citizen. Sotero Govea said the following to our reporter, Santamaria Llamas:

[Begin recording] [Question] What is the position of the honorable Assembly of Corregimiento Representatives and the National Legislation Council in regard to Article 2 and the constitutional reforms?

[Answer] Our stand on Article 2 remains just as firm as it was at the beginning. We and the Assembly of Corregimiento Representatives -- and I must say that I speak for all of us when I refer to the Assembly, because I am its spokesman and one could say I never think individually because I received my mandate from an election of representatives and must make the necessary consultations so that whatever I say is in complete agreement with the rank and file, that is, the leaders, or representatives, of the corregimientos -- repeat that we firmly abide by our position that Article 2 must be maintained.

Why? Because Article 2 gives an option to the National Guard. Somebody asked me the other day why, if we believe in deepening the process of democratization, we have chosen to support Article 2. The thing is, I think that it would be undemocratic to curb the right of a Panamanian citizen to participate in the country's political life. From General Paredes down the line to the General Staff, the area chiefs and so forth, all members of the National Guard are sons of this fatherland. They are Panamanian citizens regardless of the fact that they wear a uniform.

As Monsignor McGrath once said, even if he wears... [Sotero Govea changes thought] This is moral capital, as a citizen who has a special mission of teaching Catholicism and religion in our country. But, as a Panamanian, he is participating in the plan to create the Family Institute [Instituto de la Familia]. Therefore, why not take advantage of the experience of these men for the good of the country, of this fatherland?

For this reason, I think that our military men are also Panamanian citizens. You have seen guardsmen cleaning public places, directing some cleanup work or the work of opening up a road, or some construction work, or rescuing many people in danger under the civic action program. Actually, they don't just have to carry out repressive work [funcion de reprimir], which is no longer the philosophy of the National Guard. The philosophy of the National Guard in this country is that of jointly working with the politicians and the Panamanian people in achieving national development. [end recording]

REPRESENTATIVES VOW TO FIGHT AMENDMENTS

PA202054 Panama City CRITICA in Spanish 18 Feb 83 p 2

[Article by Toti Urriola]

[Text] The 505 corregimiento representatives have declared themselves on a state of alert, in the face of what they call a campaign to amend the Constitution in order to take from the people the benefits gained by their votes. This was the prevailing opinion at yesterday's Assembly Board of Directors meeting with their president, Professor Sotero Alfonso Govea.

"We must be more energetic against the enemies of the people's government," one of the Assembly directors told this newspaper, and that is why today we have made the basic plans for the "Great Popular Sovereignty March," because the people obtain the type of government that best responds to their interests through exercising their political sovereignty. No doubt, he added, their interests will be protected as long as the National Assembly is drawn from the masses.

"We are prepared to defend this political sovereignty, popular sovereignty, from border to border," the source added. "The popular sovereignty march scheduled for 11 March will show the entire country that the people's government has been united since that 11 October on which General Torrijos displaced from power those people who still cannot give up, and who conspire against our people in darkness."

Meanwhile, Assembly President Prof Sotero Alfonso told CRITICA: "Fortunately, the people's government is not alone in this struggle, and next 11 March we will walk hand in hand with the peasants, students, public officials and political leaders, who are conscious of the national reality and who believe in the popular representation of the country's 505 corregimientos."

The assembly president pointed out that with the intention of incorporating the friends of the people's government into the great popular sovereignty march, the board of directors will meet with all groups interested in participating, so that they can attend the next meeting on 21 February in the Blue Room of the Legislative Palace.

COSTA RICA

VICE PRESIDENT FAIT OUTLINES ECONOMIC PROBLEMS

PA240220 San Jose LA NACION in Spanish 15 Feb 83 p 24-A

[Text] Costa Rican First Vice President Alberto Fait Llizano said yesterday that the government's plans to develop the country's northern area will be accomplished peacefully and without asking anyone for a single weapon. Fait was responding to a statement made by U.S. columnist Jack Anderson, who said that Israel and the United States were promoting development of the area in order to establish a security cordon that, along with Honduras, would isolate Nicaragua.

The first vice president said: "We are not at all interested in causing Nicaragua any problems. All we want is to live in peace with the Nicaraguans." He pointed out that over 25 years ago the country managed to develop Guanacaste, a large segment of that area, peacefully and without any problems. He said that the government is now interested in developing the area that leads to the Atlantic.

Fait said that unfortunately our democracy is very small, poor and cannot afford to publicize the fact in Washington that we are a demilitarized country and have no money to buy weapons.

Fait also mentioned the results of yesterday's meeting of the government's economic team. He said that they had agreed that it should be up to the National Electricity Service (SNE) to set the profit margins for the service stations, according to the proposal made by the attorney general's office.

The Central Bank was also urged to insist on the need to reduce interest rates during the negotiations with an IMF delegation that are scheduled to begin in the next few hours. The main argument that will be presented to the IMF is that inflation has dropped considerably, and that this must be taken into account for the setting of interest rates.

According to Fait, the interest rates that should be dropped the most are those on loans for small and medium producers. Next in line should be those for cattle and agricultural projects, then those for industry, and finally those for commerce.

EL SALVADOR

RADIO VENCEREMOS ORGANIZATIONAL CHART DISCOVERED

PA240110 San Salvador EL DIARIO DE HOY in Spanish 23 Feb 83 p 2

[Text] La Guacamaya camp in Meanguera, Morazan Department, which the rebels considered a veritable fortress, was recently destroyed by the Ramon Belloso Battalion, which found a list of terrorists who had died in combat during the past 10 months. They also found the organizational chart of Radio Venceremos.

The director of Radio Venceremos, which was recently destroyed, is listed as Leoncio Pichinte, also known as Ulises. Production team: Marvin Galeas, Marvin Jefe; Maria S. Alvarez, Mariana, a Mexican who was production coordinator; Aida Marta Urbina, Marcela, Rosa Maria Manzanares, Mariposa; Salomon Enrique Sosa Chavez, Rafael; Silvia Catalina Lopez, Morena; Carlos Gayo, Santiago, a Venezuelan. Press team: Jose Roberto Alvarez B., Will; Tarcicio Lopez Sanchez, Javier. Technical team: Aristides Sosa, Apolonio, Jose Pereira, Ruben.

Film crew: Carlos Lopez, Latino, a Colombian; Hernan Vero, Maravilla, a Venezuelan; Gustavo Adolfo Amaya, Gustavo; Augusto Lopez E. Roberto, a Mexican. Security team: Commander Jose Amado Martinez, Jaime, and 19 combatants. Kitchen crew: Luciana Marquez Chica, Angelita, chief cook; Dolares Martinez, Lolita; Gregoria Perez Hernandez, Vilma; Maria Teresa Clares, Teresa.

EDITORIAL NOTES 'CRISIS' WITHIN GOVERNMENT

PA241728 San Salvador EL SALVADOR PROCESO in Spanish 7-13 Feb 83 pp 1, 2

[Editorial: "Vain Efforts"]

[Excerpts] The pronouncement that was released early this week by an extreme rightist association, accusing the high command of betraying the Salvadoran people and inciting to a coup d'etat, demonstrates the efforts by certain government sectors to change the current military and political course, which is supported by the United States. The final objective of these efforts seems to have been thwarted for the time being and the policy prepresented by General Garcia appears to have been strengthened in the wake of the changes that were made by the latest military order and the show of support given by Dr Kirkpatrick.

Despite the fact that the blows dealt by certain monied sectors in an effort to remove the military and recover political leadership of the state apparatus have partially failed, and though the United States has reconfirmed its political policy for El Salvador, as well as for the managers and guarantors of its plan for the country, the crisis within the "national unity" has not been resolved. Experience indicates that a hardening and even greater commitment to military solutions can be expected, even if accompanied by apparent "moderation" in the political sphere.

PAPER CITES POSSIBLE U.S. MILITARY AID CUTOFF

PA240000 San Salvador EL SALVADOR NEWS GAZETTE in English 21-27 Feb 83 p 4

[Unattributed editorial: "New Danger Signals"]

[Text] During the past weeks we have been pointed out danger signals for El Salvador that were largely ignored.

The first was the warning of the military observers that all that was necessary for the subversives to win was for them to continue what they have been doing and for the government not to change its tactics. The siege in Morazan, the tragic events of Berlin and now Suchitoto and Zacatecoluca speak for themselves.

Now we see a new and even greater danger: The possibility that U.S. military aid will be either drastically reduced or cut off.

The Congressional visitors of the Appropriations Committee, which controls the money, were extremely doubtful that Congress, in view of the bad economic situation in the United States and other factors, will approve military aid to the extent it was needed. We reported this on the front page.

While there were no declarations by the Congressmen before they left, Defense Minister Garcia's statement that the Congressmen told him that there was "a chance" that it would be continued is extremely revealing. It could also have meant that there was "the chance" that continued aid would not be approved.

This is a far cry from the unconditional assurances of the administration that El Salvador will not be abandoned.

Undoubtedly, if Congress refused to approve continued military aid, President Reagan would resort to emergency funds that are at the disposal of the administration for just such a crisis. It must be remembered, however, that in the long run Congress controls the money.

While the subversives are fighting a "prolonged war" that can go on for years and years, these two danger signals should make us aware that neither the resources of this nation nor the patience of our good ally can match the undefinite period of "prolonged war" that is the subversive's greatest asset.

COMMISSION PRESENTS APANECA PACT PEACE PROGRAM

PA241509 San Salvador Domestic Service in Spanish 0200 GMT 24 Feb 83

["Bases for Peace in El Salvador," presented by the Political Commission of the Apaneca Pact; read by commission coordinator Salvadoran President Alvaro Magana Borja - live]

[Text] The Political Commission reaffirms that the solution to the problem of violence must be essentially political and democratic. Consequently, it is indispensable that the necessary efforts be carried out, continuously and permanently, to attain the objectives of the democratic process, which is the sole path for achieving peace. For this reason, the commission firmly rejects the armed solution imposed and supported from abroad, because it runs contrary to the aspirations of the Salvadorans, who have repeatedly shown their commitment to peace and democracy and their confidence in the process that is already underway, which should culminate, according to the national unity government's political program, in elections next year, when the people will freely choose their rulers.

The Political Commission unanimously reaffirms its unyielding intention to maintain peace and its firm determination to establish respect for the various ideological concepts, in order to achieve a pluralistic, democratic and equitable society that, through strict respect for human rights, will promote social improvement.

If peace is to exist in El Salvador, it is indispensable that the groups that oppose the current democratic process, whatever their ideology, put an end to their radical and sectarian actions and give up the irrational strategy of violence, destruction and revenge, so that peace may encompass all sectors and forces without distinction.

Our democratic process, reaffirmed in the 28 March 1982 elections, is in itself a process of peace, supported, strengthened and made more dynamic by the programs of human rights, economic recovery and social reform that constitute the national unity government's peace program. This overall program will eradicate the causes of the conflict and eliminate its effects by achieving its objectives.

Our program is the only means of establishing the conditions that are needed for peace, which dialogue alone cannot achieve. The simplistic proposal of dialogue that has been made does not fulfill the desired objective of serving as a means of achieving peace. Moreover, when it is motivated by propaganda purposes and is used as a tactical resource, it becomes a negative factor in terms of any real chances of securing peace.

The Political Commission promotes and coordinates the complete realization of the peace program as a Salvadoran solution to Salvadoran problems, by creating the instruments and mechanisms for national reconciliation. To this end, the peace commission, to be promptly established in accordance with the provisions of the Apaneca pact, will have the following objectives:

A. To immediately review the draft amnesty law and oversee its effective implementation so that the rebels may give up their attitude and may later become incorporated into the democratic process.

B. To promote the creation of adequate social and political conditions for the effective and sustained achievement of peace by improving mechanisms for democratic participation such as electoral processes, access to the media and freedoms of association and expression.

C. In general, to carry out all those activities that tend to strengthen the bases for the achievement of peace in the country, while promoting the incorporation of all political and social sectors into the democratic process of peace.

Simultaneously, and in close cooperation with the human rights commission, the commission will immediately devote itself to the following tasks: Enforcing the amnesty law; reviewing the laws that govern political crimes and their procedures as well as proposing required amenements; recommending solutions to the problems of the civilian population who live in areas of conflict, in order to normalize their activites; recommending measures to strengthen the judicial branch, in order to make it the proper institution for settling conflicts of interest and for guaranteeing individual and social rights.

The strengthening of El Salvador in the internationl arena, in an effort to achieve a better understanding of our situation and to reject all forms of foreign aggression and intervention will make it possible to achieve our objectives of peace. Such accomplishment has been obstructed by external factors which have their origins in conflicting hegemonic interests that hamper our efforts to achieve peace.

in fulfilling its duties, the constitutional government of the republic is obligated to defend our republican and democratic institutions, which are threatened by subversion. The Political Commission of the Apaneca Pact, with the intention of achieving the most important national objective, presents its peace program which, being directed toward resolving the social conflict, implementing a democratic process and establishing respect for human rights, interprets the thinking of Salvadoran people, who expressed themselves on 28 March 1982.

The commission calls on the Salvadoran people to support this peace program and to join in a true national crusade to achieve the objectives noted in this document.

[Signed] Alvaro Magana Borja, president
Raul Molina Martinez, first vice president
Dr Gabriel Mauricio Gutierrez, second vice president
Dr Pablo Mauricio Alvergue, third vice president
Dr Fidel Chavez Mena, minister of foreign relations
Gen Jose Guillermo Garcia, minister of defense and public security
Hugo Barrera, Nationalist Republican Alliance representative
Benjamin W. Navarrete, National Conciliation Party representative
Francisco Quinones, Salvadoran Popular Party representative

'OBSERVERS' QUESTION RIVERA Y DAMAS HOMILY

PA230751 San Salvador EL DIARIO DE HOY in Spanish 22 Feb 83 pp 2, 35

[Text] Observers of the national situation have stated that according to the most recent homily delivered by Msgr Arturo Rivera y Damas there are contradictions regarding te position of the Catholic Church in its support for negotiations with the subversives.

The observers asked themselves whether Monsignor Rivera y Damas has forgotten the pretenses and lies regarding the "dialogue" expressed by the FMLN and the Revolutionary Democratic Front, FDR, in the documents that the army seized in April 1981? One of the paragraphs in those documents, according to the newspapers of 27 April 1981, states: "Direct contact with Monsignor Rivera y Damas and the Vatican to get their support for the initiative and a definite contribution from the church toward the same; with Rivera y Damas we can exploit the possibility of a declaration by the Episcopal Conference that would be favorable to the plan."

In this respect, doubt arises as to whether Monsignor Rivera y Damas, aware of it or not, is being used by the guerrillas to achieve their purpose of a "dialogue" when they are losing hope.

In the documents seized from the FMLN-FDR they state that "timing is essential. To a large extent, the success of this maneuver depends on the right timing and development at an adequate pace." Almost 2 years after this statement, Monsignor Rivera y Damas appears to support a "dialogue" in his homily, and without thinking, he has taken a turn toward the ill-fated plans of the enemies of the fatherland.

At that time, the extremists said that "since this is an auxiliary maneuver to the main instrument, which is war, because of existing conditions it must be strictly subordinate to the military war plan."

It seems that these "conditions" under the plan agree with the intentions of the head of the Salvadoran Catholic Church and show his mistaken position in the face of the national reality, observers added.

"Whoever encourages, sponsors or gives his blessing to a 'dialogue' with the terrorist groups forgets that such a step is a maneuver of the enemies of the people," the observers said. They added that negotiations, mediation or "dialogue" proposed by the extremists is only a trick to win time in their prolonged war.

Those who support this maneuver because of their short memory are "useful fools." But those who knowingly support it are traitors to the fatherland, the observers said.

The observers recalled the brave decision made by the Salvadoran people when they went to cast their votes under fire on 28 March 1982. The people want to live in peace, freedom and democracy. The observers have asked that the appropriate official organizations once again publish the seized documents to "refresh the memories" of more than one bad Salvadoran.

RADIO VENCEREMOS REPORTS ON FMLN ACTIVITIES

Four Reasons for Struggle

PA230348 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0230 GMT 22 Feb 83

[Text] We have four reasons for fighting. We have raised four banners in this struggle, and we will never give them up. First, we wish to carry out all the social and economic changes our country needs. Our people have suffered too much during all the years of oppression and poverty, and our objective is to overthrow the greedy oligarchs who have seized power and our wealth.

Second, we seek to return to our rural workers the land taken away from them by the oligarchs for the past century. The land should be owned by those who work it, and its products should serve the needs of the peasants and the working people. No more lies of false agrarian reforms, which only promote repression and massacres against the workers. No more lies of agrarian reform to deceive the peasants. Real agrarian reform can only come through this revolution, which is being promoted by our people. In order to achieve it, we will have to raise with determination our machetes, rifles and our red and white flags.

We are also engaged in a war without quarter to recover our sovereignty, to be able to decide our own destiny and build a new society according to our way of life and needs. To achieve this, we know that we will have to confront the plans of U.S. imperialism. We will have to reject its brazen interference in our affairs, in our foreign policy and in our national life. We also know that in order to recover our sovereignty we will have to expel from the country all those who yielded our homeland, our resources and our power of decision to imperialist interests.

The recovery of our sovereignty will cost an immense sacrifice and will require facing great dangers, but we are determined to recover it, and we will never renounce this goal.

To achieve a government of all the people, a government of broad participation, is another of our objectives, since to defend our gains and make our aspirations a reality will only be possible with a united effort on the part of all the political and patriotic sectors, of all the progressive, democratic and revolutionary forces of our homeland.

In order to attain those four goals, in the interest of those four banners, we have built up this powerful revolutionary army. that is why we are waging war. We will never put down our arms. We will never stop waging war until we have attained these goals and achieved all the Salvadoran people's historical aspirations.

Hundreds of patriots and dozens of our supporters have fallen in pursuit of these goals. Thousands have shed their blood, and our flag has been stained in the effort to achieve those aspirations. That is why we will never stop to pursuing them. That is why we will struggle unceasingly to achieve them.

Our militias and our revolutionary army are fighting for the socioeconomic changes that we need, for a true agrarian reform, to recover our sovereignty and for a government of broad participation.

Attack in Perquin

PA240405 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0230 GMT 24 Feb 83

[Text] Attention. The FMLN once again controls all of northern Morazan Department, from the Torola River to the north. Attention. At 0300 on 23 February, the FMLN, with units of the Commander Mario Armijo special forces, staged an incursion of the town of Perquin, the base of the Belloso Battalion, and placed several explosive charges in the command post of the weapons support company located in the Perquin health center. The companero commandos evaded the strict vigilance of 850 gringo battalion soldiers. They evaded the trenches and minefields. This operation seriously damaged the enemy support weapons command post. This operation was led by Commander (Guadalupe).

This effective blow by our command units speeded up the withdrawal of the Belloso Battalion. The order to leave that town in an orderly manner was not obeyed as a result of this operation; the Belloso Battalion hurriedly abandoned Perquin for San Francisco Gotera.

In this victorious military action of our commando forces, we combined our military capacity with the intelligence reports supplied by Belloso Battalion sources. Those intelligence reports gave us the location of the target and the security forces.

Our greetings to our companeros who are members of the Commander Mario Armijo special forces, whose units in Izalco achieved a victory and now in Perquin they achieved the complete demoralization of the gringo battalion. Onward companeros!

Pressure on Belloso Battalion

PA240425 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0230 GMT 24 Feb 83

[Text] The Belloso Battalion abandons Perquin. Early on the morning of 23 February the Belloso Battalion began to abandon the town of Perquin in a hurry after they received a blow from our commandos right in the heart of that town. Our forces have forced the Belloso Battalion to withdraw from the north of Morazan. The battalion began to leave the town of Perquin early in the morning, and by afternoon they were crossing the Torola river headed for San Francisco Gotera.

To achieve their shameful withdrawal from Perquin, the dictatorship's special forces took strategic areas along the road from San Francisco Gotera to Perquin. The Belloso Battalion's shameful withdrawal received the support of A-37 airplanes that bombed the area and heavy artillery and support weapon fire.

Intelligence reports received from the Belloso Battalion state that Lt Col (Miguel Angel Mendez) refused to accompany his troops in their withdrawal from Perquin. He boarded a helicopter and, together with other officers of this battalion, abandoned the town. He has once again demonstrated his irresponsibility and cowardice. As we had already reported, the commander of this gringo battalion had his differences with the military high command when he disobeyed the order to remain in Perquin to try and stop the advances of our revolutionary army.

With the Belloso Battalion's crossing of the Torola River, the FMLN controls all the northern areas of Morazan, extensive areas that include the towns of Joateca, Jocoaitique, Perquin, Torola, San Fernando, Meanguera, Villa del Rosario, Corinto and other towns. The FMLN also controls large areas in the north of San Miguel and La Union.

In Meanguera the Atonal Battalion fled; in Perquin the Belloso Battalion flees. The dictatorship's troops are scattering; our people advance.

Tejutla Capture Claimed

PA250346 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0230 GMT 25 Feb 83

[Text] The FMLN continues dislodging the enemy from its positions. Our forces seized Tejutla, recovering more weapons and taking more prisoners.

Reports from Chalatenango Department say that our forces in Tejutla seized 13 G-3 rifles, 1 M-60 machinegun, 1 M-79 grenade launcher and 1 Garand rifle, and captured 6 National Guard members. We also caused four casualties to the dictatorship's troops.

This is the first report we have received on results of the fighting in Tejutla, which was occupied by FMLN at 1400 on 23 February. More reports from Chalatenango on the fighting that took place near Tejutla: Fierce clashes were held near Amayo River, with reinforcements from the Army's 4th Infantry Brigade stationed in El Paraiso. In this fighting, our forces seized 5 M-16 rifles, 2 G-3 rifles, 2 M-1 carbines, cartridge belts for HK-21 machineguns, 1 PRT-67 radio and lots of ammunition. Our forces also captured 4 soldiers of the Army's 4th Infantry Brigade with headquarters in El Paraiso.

We caused over 30 casualties to the dictatorship's forces, including dead and wounded, in the Tejutla fighting. As a result of the occupation of Tejutla and other fighting, the FMLN seized 25 weapons and captured 10 of the dictatorship's soldiers. Our people continue advancing.

HAVANA REPORTS ON RECENT FMLN ACTIVITIES

PA230830 Havana International Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 22 Feb 83

[Text] The FMLN forces of El Salvador continue to wage fierce battles against more than 4,000 army troops that with the support of tanks, heavy artillery and aircraft are trying to dislodge them from the outskirts of Suchitoto, a city that has been under siege by the guerrillas for the past 12 days. According to an FMLN report, late yesterday the insurgents inflicted 47 casualties on the Salvadoran Army in battles in Suchitoto and on Guazapa volcano, where the regime's airplanes are indiscriminately bombing presumed guerrilla positions.

International news agencies report clashes in the towns of Ciudad Barrios, Moncagua, Chapeltique and (Los Ejidos) in San Miguel Department, as well as in El Paisnal, only 39 km north of San Salvador.

Technicians of the National Telecommunications Administration said that the Izalco ground station located in San Julian will be out of service for several days due to an attack on Thursday by guerrilla commandos. It was reported that this station and the one installed on Miramundo mountain in Chalatenango Department have been adapted for military communications by U.S. specialists and have special protective fences.

GUATEMALA

FOREIGN MINISTER TRAVELS TO COLOMBIA 24 FEB

PA242154 Guatemala City Radio-Television Guatemala in Spanish 0400 GMT 24 Feb 83

[Text] Foreign Minister Eduardo Castillo Arriola traveled to Colombia today. The purpose of his mission was not announced. Deputy Foreign Minister (Edgar Barceno Morgan) will be acting foreign minister while Castillo Arriola is out of the country.

REBEL ARMS CACHE FOUND IN NUEVA CONCEPCION

PA232353 Guatemala City Radio-Television Guatemala in Spanish 0400 GMT 23 Feb 83

[Text] Military patrols carrying out an extensive operation in the southern coast area discovered a subversive arms cache in Nueva Concepcion settlement, Escuintla Department, the army announced today.

Army patrols found an improvised weapons cache containing the following arms that were presumably in transit: 7 bazookas, 2 M-60 machineguns, 22 M-16 automatic rifles, 42 40-mm grenades, 150 Soviet-made grenades for M-69 grenade launchers, 39 rounds for M-16 rifles, 705 7.62-mm cartridges for M-60 machineguns, 16 power sources for bazookas, 49 grenades for bazookas, 2,800 cartridges for 5.56 rifles, 12 rifle carriers, 15 containers of grenade [word indistinct] and 10 cases of assorted medicine.

DEMOCRATIC SOCIALISTS ELECT NEW DIRECTORATE

PA230422 Guatemala City Radio Nuevo Mundo in Spanish 1200 GMT 22 Feb 83

[Text] The National Directorate of the Democratic Socialist Party, PSD, has been reorganized, according to a communique released by the party's press and information secretariat. The document notes that Roger Alfonso Rodas Melgar, a young economist of outstanding merits in his professional career, was elected president. Rodas Melgar has held important positions in Guatemala and in international organizations.

HAVANA CITES VIOLATION OF MEXICAN AIRSPACE

PA241801 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 24 Feb 83

[Text] A fleet of Guatemalan Air Force planes violated Mexican airspace on Sunday while staging bombing operations against a Guatemalan border town.

The municipal president of Union Juarez, located on the border with Guatemala, reported that 10 airplanes marked with the Guatemalan insignia and flag flew over refugee camps near the border and bombed the Guatemalan town of (El Sabinal).

HAVANA DESCRIBES SOCIALIST DEMOCRATIC STANCE

PA241809 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 23 Feb 83

[Text] The Guatemalan Socialist Democratic Party has said that Guatemala is undergoing a deep crisis, requiring profound economic and social transformations if the people's needs are to be met.

The party said during its second congress that the manner in which land is held condemns most inhabitants to a life of overexploitation, hunger and unemployment. It added that the rightist sectors and the military have imposed a regime of terror and persecution upon Guatemala's popular and democratic forces.

The party declared itself open to dialogue with all political forces struggling to establish democracy in Guatemala and said that a convergence of progressive sectors is now required to promote a true process of democratization.

With regard to the Central American situation, it condemned the counterrevolutionary aggression against the Nicaraguan people and expressed support for a negotiated settlement of the conflict in El Salvador, as well as for the FMLN.

HONDURAS

PRESIDENCY SECRETARY DEFENDS NATIONAL DIALOGUE

PA231843 Tegucigalpa Cadena Audio Video in Spanish 1145 GMT 22 Feb 83

[Text] Referring to the national dialogue, Carlos Roberto Flores, secretary of state for the presidency, said yesterday that the armed forces, which comprise a new generation of honest men, completely support President Roberto Suazo Cordova's democratic government.

Flores said that the national dialogue is both honest and sincere. He referred to President Suazo Cordova's wish to have all Hondurans participate in a discussion of the nation's problems and to contribute to their solution. As for the current crisis in congress resulting from the attitude of four Liberal Party deputies, Flores said that we must not confuse personal motives with the country's highest interests. He added that the Liberal Party has not lost control of congress simply because of a few isolated actions. Here is a brief interview given by Secretary Flores to our reporter yesterday:

[Begin recording] [Question] Who does the ruling party blame for the corruption and squandering of the people's money by previous regimes; the military, who wanted to take over power, or the nationalists, who shared power with the military?

[Answer] We believe in working for the future by shaping the present, so that we can leave a better future for coming generations. The president of the republic has said that we will not look back or make accusations; instead, we are going to work in a responsible manner to build a better Honduras. This is a small country and we all know each other. We believe, and we said as much, that the responsibility for running the country rests with everyone, as does its backwardness or progress. I think that in Honduras we know who has been honest and who has not. We believe that our army is a responsible institution that has matured; it is a professional army, comprising a new generation of men. We know that this government has the full support of the Honduran Armed Forces and of the honest and capable officers in the army.

[Question] Does President Suazo Cordova's policy call for dismissal of government officials who are not complying with their duties and who are found to be corrupt?

[Answer] You may rest assured that if we receive such evidence, if we learn that there are people within this government who are acting in a manner not consistent with that policy, they will be dismissed, regardless of the party to which they belong. There have already been some dismissals in the administrative structure for the very reason that some people were not conducting themselves in accordance with that policy.

[Question] It has been said that the crisis in the congress has caused the government to reflect and it has been asked how a national dialogue can exist if there is division whithin the ruling party itself, as is the case of the presidential designates and the four deputies who make up the "little bloc".

[Answer] First of all, we wish to note that these are not the first meetings to be held by the president of the republic. In the first year of his administration, Dr Roberto Suazo Cordova maintained permanent contact with the various representative sectors.

We also wish to note that this is a resumption of or a new stimulus for this conduct, this procedure of governing by consensus. Now, I think that we must grow accustomed to living democratically in this country. We believe that our representative institutions, deliberation as a means of solving problems [Flores changes thought] we have to become accustomed to the existence of debate, to the existence of criticism and to the existence of recommendations and we must realize that these recommendations, criticism and observations can be made within a highminded dialogue.

We see no division in the Honduran family. We see unity on homeland's major interests. Let's not confuse personal interests and personal motivations with the nation's fundamental interests.

We believe that the Congress of the Republic, as a deliberating institution in which the people's sovereignty is represented, is also one of the factors that contribute to this unity. It is a Congress in which democracy exists and we must accustom ourselves to living within that democracy. We don't reject this. On the contrary, we applaud it, for we must repeat, this is our country's great mark of distinction: That we can still say that there is full and guaranteed freedom of expression.

[Question] Well, if the Liberal Party loses control of the National Congress, would this be an obstacle to some extent to the job that the government is doing?

[Answer] The Liberal Party has not lost and will not lose control of the National Congress. We believe that isolated attitudes should not be interpreted as a party position or as a permanent position. The Liberal Party has its representatives in the congress and we believe -- in fact, we are certain -- that the Liberal Party will retain its control in the National Congress.

[Question] What will it do to achieve a reconciliation with those four deputies who are definitely opposed to the policy pursued by most Liberal Party deputies?

[Answer] We believe that this is an internal matter within the party and that the question should be answered by the party's executive central council. We called this news conference to talk about situations on a higher level, to talk about the national dialogue suggested by the president of the republic and which he is promoting with the various representative sectors. [end recording]

AMBASSADOR PRAISES PAZ BARNICA INITIATIVE

PA231835 Tegucigalpa Domestic Service in Spanish 1130 GMT 22 Feb 83

[Text] Salvador de la Iglesia Arias, Panamanian ambassador to Honduras, yesterday described as very positive the Honduran decision to invite Nicaraguan Foreign Minister Miguel d'Escoto to inspect the area where Somozist camps presumably exist. The Honduran Foreign Secretariat's invitation is convincing proof that this government is practicing nonintervention in the affairs of other countries, particularly Nicaragua, the diplomat said.

De la Iglesia also described as very positive the (?attempt) to clarify misinformation by having D'Escoto come to the site of events and indicate where the alleged camps of former Somozist are located.

The ambassador announced that Panamanian Foreign Minister Jose Amado will probably visit Honduras in April. Amado has been officially invited by the Honduran Government. Amado's visit will provide an opportunity for the two countries to talk about the Central American problems. The ambassador feels this would be important for easing tension in the area [words indistinct] time to arrive at something specific.

ECONOMY SECRETARY TO LEAVE POST IN MARCH

PA232226 Tegucigalpa Cadena Audio Video in Spanish 1200 GMT 22 Feb 83

[Text] Gustavo Alfaro, economy and commerce secretary, will be leaving his post in mid-March, it was learned yesterday in Tegucigalpa. Alfaro was notified of President Roberto Suazo Cordova's decision to transfer him to another position in the administration. On learning the news, personnel of the Secretariat of Economy and Commerce proceeded to give Alfaro a farewell party.

Everything seems to indicate that Alfaro will be President Suazo Cordova's counsellor on foreign trade and investments.

It was rumored in official circles that (Mario Batres) would replace Alfaro. (Batres), a local insurance company executive, said he had heard such rumors but that there was nothing official yet. (Batres) said he might accept the post, but that he still has some matters to take care for the company that employs him. He refused to say what type of policy he would implement should he become the new economy and commerce secretary. It is too early to make such statements, (Batres) added.

Alfaro confirmed reports that he will leave the Economy and Commerce Secretariat to become the president's special adviser. He said he still did not know the exact date when these changes will take place and that he does not know who will be appointed to his post.

NICARAGUA

HAVANA CITES BARRICADA ON REAGAN SPEECH

PA241905 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 24 Feb 83

[Text] The Nicaraguan newspaper BARRICADA has said that the belligerent tone which U.S. President Ronald Reagan used in his speech yesterday is an implicit admission of the failure of his Central American policy. The paper emphasizes that Reagan is obliged to sell his people the idea of an alleged threat to national security in order to prepare them for responses that are exclusively military in nature.

At a meeting of the American Legion, which is made up of war veterans, Ronald Reagan said that Nicaragua is a special menace in Central America that endangers U.S. national security. BARRICADA says that this statement clears up any doubt about the rumors in the U.S. press that possible changes in Washington's policy toward Central America are planned.

PAPAL MISSION TO REVIEW AGENDA FOR POPE'S VISIT

PA241558 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1230 GMT 23 Feb 83

[Text] Managua, 23 Feb (ACAN-EFE) -- A Vatican mission led by Monsignor Achille Silvestrini, secretary of the church Council for Public Affairs, arrived in Nicaragua last night to "give the finishing touches" to the plans for the pope's visit to this country.

Father Roberto Tucci, director of Vatican Radio, and Camilo Cibin, director of the Vatican's security services, accompanied Monsignor Silvestrini, whose position is equal to that of "foreign minister" for the Holy See.

They were met at the Augusto C. Sandino International Airport by Nora Astorga, acting foreign minister; Aldo Diaz, director for foreign policies at the Foreign Ministry; and by Papal Nuncio Monsignor Andrea Cordero Lanza di Montezemolo.

According to Holy See sources, even though yesterday the Vatican issued an "official and definite" program for the pastoral tour that Pope John Paul II will make to eight countries in Central America and the Caribbean, last-minute changes could be made, although they may not be substantial.

The pope will arrive in Nicaragua on Friday, 4 March. During his trip to the country's interior, he will only visit Leon, a city in western Nicaragua, where he will speak at an event in "celebration of the word."

The reporters asked the papal nuncio to give his opinion as to the difficulties that are said to exist in terms of the pope's visit to Nicaragua.

The nuncio said that "the Nicaraguan people have expressed their desire to have the pope here. The bishops feel the same way. The government has invited the pope to visit on several occasions. Therefore, everyone is interested in having the pope visit."

Monsignor Cordero Lanza di Montezemolo added that "now we must all join efforts to complete the program in the best possible way, so that the pope's visit can be reflect the wishes of all."

Monsignor Silvestrini said that the delegation's visit, only 10 days before the pope arrives in Nicaragua, is for the purpose "of cooperating" in giving the final touches to the program for the pope's visit.

In answering other questions, Monsignor Silvestrini said that the pope will speak on the subject of general peace, without mentioning any country's specific problems.

"He will speak about the most important problems without entering into specific details details," the archbishop said.

When Monsignor Silvestrini was asked whether there is religious persecution in Nicaragua he said: "That is too big a question."

The nuncio added immediately that he would prefer that the question not be dealt with until the delegation leaves the country.

COMMANDER LUIS CARRION SPEAKS ON ANNIVERSARY

PA220242 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 1730 GMT 21 Feb 83

[Speech by Luis Carrion Ruiz, commander of the revolution and member of the FSLN Defense and Security Committee, in Ocotal on the 49th anniversary of the death of Gen Augusto Cesar Sandino -- live]

[Excerpts] We have taken the path of revolution, and we will continue to the end. Consistent with this policy, we must announce that today our revolution has taken another step in favor of the peasants of Nueva Segovia. The revolutionary state has decided that all state-owned lands in Limay Valley will be turned over entirely to the peasant cooperatives. [applause]

However, it is true that the state has confiscated lands. It has confiscated the lands of the Somozists, the idle landlords, the large landholders and the counterrevolutionaries. We have confiscated the lands of those who used them to exploit and oppress the peasants mercilessly. We have confiscated the lands of those who have much to give those who have nothing. This is the policy of the revolution.

And in order to continue this policy, to continue applying this policy and to continue giving lands to the peasants, we advise you that in keeping with the Agrarian reform law the following properties in various parts of the country have been affected: I will read the names of the haciendas. Hacienda (Montemar) in Diriamba; Hacienda (Santa Emilia) in Diriamba; Hacienda (La Granadilla) in Diriomo; (Los Camastros) in Tola; nine properties in Moyogalpa; (Montecristo) in Tola; (Santa Rosa) in Diriamba; (La Carmelena) in Diriamba; (Monte Fresco) and annexes in Diriamba; (San Rafael o la Compani) in Granada; (La Flor) in Jinotepe or [as heard] Carazo, for a total of 13,434 manzanas, which will become the property of cooperatives and peasant families. [applause]

This is what we have done and what we will continue to do, as well as schools, hospitals, roads, electricity, and progress, but, above all, justice and liberty and national independence. This is what the imperialists seek to prevent with the war they have brought to our border. That is why we are also struggling for peace.

Peace is an aspiration of all humanity. Peace is a right an dream of the peoples of Sandino, who with their blood and sweat, with the memory of the martyrs and the example of the heroes, are forging their destiny day after day. The Nicaraguan people and all Central American peoples -- hunger-stricken, blood-stained, oppressed, but courageous and dignified peoples -- struggle for and dream of peace. More than 40,000 civilian victims in El Salvador, with dozens of villages totally razed; the death squads popular labor movement, as the number of missing and assassinated persons increases daily on the streets; hundreds of Nicaraguans killed, wounded, or kidnapped by the counterrevolutionary groups that operate from Honduras with the support of the Central Intelligence Agency -- these are facts that reflect the dimensions of the anguish, pain and suffering in the hearts of Central Americans. In the face of this picture of desolation and death, who does not want peace in Central America?

First of all, the thousands of peasants, workers, artisans, Indians and honest professionals who comprise the immense majority of the Central Amreicans want peace. The humble and downtrodden, who have nothing to lose except their lives because they have lost everything else, taken from them by the oligarchs and imperialists, want peace. The peoples who see their cities and villages razed, bombed and sacked by the armies of their own countries, counseled by U.S. advisers, want peace.

The Nicaraguan people, accosted and assassinated by Somozist mercenaries, a people whose industries and bridges are threatened by terrorists trained and equipped abroad, continually harassed by the subversive actions of the CIA and the presence of Yankee warships and troops off our coasts and our borders, wants peace. The FSLN, sole and legitimate representative of the Nicaraguan people, wants peace. The democratic and responsible governments of the world, such as France, Mexico, Venezuela, Panama, and so many others that have come out in favor of political solutions to the regional conflicts want peace in Central America. The Catholic Church and its foremost leader, the pope, as well as Protestant churches and churches of other denominations, which have courageously denounced the foreign aggressions and antipopular crimes, want peace. The countries of the Nonaligned Movement, who met in Managua from 10 to 14 January of this year and strongly denounced the Yankee warmongering intervention in the region and called for a search for solutions to promote peace in Central America and for respect for the sovereign right of self-determination of the peoples, want peace.

The North American people themselves want peace. A U.S. delegation is accompanying us today in this event. The North American people have come out against the interventionist policy of their government and have sent many of their representatives to express solidarity with our people. Many of them even shared moments and days in the live and sacrifices of our courageous militiamen and hour heroic border guards on the northern Zelaya.

Virtually everyone wants peace in Central America. Yes, virtually everyone. Because there are those who do not care about the widows and orphans, the material losses and the pain of the humble. There are those who were born by mistake in some country of Central America, but who are in reality foreigners without the slightest feeling of national pride and love of the fatherland. There are also the other ones, the blond invaders, the barbaric ones who speak English, those who think that Latin America is the backyard of the United States and that Central America is a farm that is theirs. They do not want peace; they promote war and practice their war games and make war threats. The traitorous Central Americans who do not want peace are the big oligarchs, the minority of parasites who have built themselves palaces, who travel to Europe once a year, who accumulate wealth, who own the lands, the banks, the factories, the farms, and who have not taken possession of the air we breathe only because they have not been able to -- the landlords and merciless capitalists, who are vain, strutting peacocks, who boast of their wealth, which is like a slap in the face to the poverty-stricken; few of them have followed the biblical teaching "in the sweat of thy face shall thou eat bread," but rather with the sweat of others, with the sweat of those exploited on their farms, in their factories, in their firms.

We have buried the arrogance and humiliations of the powerful. We are gradually exterminating exploitation and we have established in Nicaragua a single voice of command, that of the working people. We destroyed the class army, the national guards, and we gave arms to the people to defend the fatherland and the revolution. [applause]

We are not the ones who have artifically invented the struggle of the other Central American peoples. These struggles existed long before the Sandinist victory and are a response, the only possible response to the injustice, exploitation and political oppression. We are not the godfathers of the Central American revolutionaries, because in each country there are vanguards of capable leaders, courageous, who emerged from the struggle of their peoples, who know how to think for themselves. However, we are ready to accept the responsibility that stems from our revolutionary example and our irreversible will to be free, and we are proud of that example. [applause and shouts]

Therefore, the oligarchs, the traitorous sellouts of Central America, gutter seals as Sandino called them, hate and fear us and would like to see us destroyed. They dream of a war in which they can defeat Nicaragua and return power to the Somozists, the sell-outs who are the only ones with whom they would feel at ease. For this purpose they support the counterrevolutionaries and make aggressive statements; they dig out that hatchet of war and participate in military maneuvers alongside the Yankees.

But, after all, and despite their bellicose declarations, they are not the most dangerous enemies of peace in Central America. The high priest of the war is the same one against whom (Andres Castro) fought, the same one whom Benjamin Zeledon confronted, the same one who was shamefully expelled from Nicaragua by Sandino and his popular army -- it is U.S. imperialism, the machos as they are called in Las Segovias. The government of Ronald Reagan has promoted a policy toward Central America that is adventurous, irresponsible and warmongering. Since Mr Reagan reached power, he has set out to resolve the political and social crisis that has gripped the Central American countries by the military path, and to defeat the Nicaraguan revolution in the same way. The Yankee government has done everything possible to fan the flames of war in our region. It carries out spy flights against Nicaragua. It deploys its warships on the Central American coasts. It organizes dangerous and aggressive military maneuvers jointly with the Honduran Army. It supports with money, arms and advisers the genocidal war waged by the Salvadoran regime against its own people. It arms and organizes the groups of Somozist guards and counterrevolutionaries to take war to Nicaragua. It has attempted to organize against Nicaragua the military alliance known as the northern triangle.

Consistent with this policy, the U.S. Government has refused to support the proposal of the Salvadoran revolutionaries in search of a political solution to the Salvadoran conflict. It also rejected the appeals made by the governments of Mexico and Venezuela to search for peace in the region. It has exerted pressure and made imperial demands to countries and governments in Europe and Latin America so that they will not support the just cause of our people. Just as in Sandino's time, it has spread all sorts of lies, slandering the reality of our country, attempting to isolate and discredit us and thus legitimize the warmongering policy against Nicaragua.

And what have been the results of this demented policy? For the people it has signified more pain and death, more bombs dropped on their homes, more fear and anguish. For the Yankee imperialists, this policy has encountered the most resounding failure. While they send more arms and more advisers to El Salvador, the revolutionary struggle grows and the Salvadoran people's army is strengthened. While they give more support to the Salvadoran regime, it becomes more isolated internationally and weaker and full of contradictions internally. To the extent that they increase their aggressions and support of the Somozist bands, the unity of the people is strengthened around its Sandinist vanguard, and the popular will to defend the revolution to the end is consolidated. As imperialism strengthens militarism in Honduras and antipopular repression increases, the will and fighting capacity of the Honduran people to put up resistance and struggle increases.

The political and diplomatic pressures by the United States, full of arrogance and prepotence, have served to increase the solidarity and sympathy of other peoples and governments of the world with our cause. The effort to prevent us from being elected to the UN Security Council led us to occupy a seat in that council quicker. Its aggressions, its threats and its interventionism will do nothing but encourage and develop the anti-imperialist awareness of the Central American peoples. They tried to isolate us, but it has been their policy that has been isolated.

It would seem as if each time the Yankee imperialists aim their rifles against Nicaragua they get a backfire. [applause] The policy of the Yankee imperialists has had a shattering defeat, because it is unjust, because it wants to go against the natural trend of the new history and because it does not recognize the objective changes that have occurred in Latin America. America wants peace, but they want war. In America a new feeling of dignity and sovereignty, full of the spirit of Sandino and Bolivar, has been born and is growing. And the United States wants to continue to treat Latin Americans as servants and slaves. If they pursue this path they will reap only failure and continental hatred.

But the peoples must remain alert, because despite these failures there are myopic and adventurous politicians in the United States who clamor for an interventionist escalation and direct the claws of the imperial eagle toward El Salvador, called the Tom Thumb of America in view of its small geography, but which is a giant of heroism and dignity. [applause, shouts]

But beware, beware, messrs interventionists, because the cure may turn out to be worse than the ailment. The Vietnamese showed that the determination of the peoples cannot be subdued with cannons. And a military intervention in Central America would meet with the general insurrection of the Central American peoples. An intervention in Central America would do nothing but spread the war to the whole Central American region. An intervention in Central America would not resolve the political, social and economic problems of this region. An intervention in Central America could perhaps be the most serious and costly error U.S. policy could make. And the whole world must mobilize so that this error is not committed, so that such a monstruous and useless crime is not perpetrated.

On the contrary, Nicaragua's policy has triumphed up to now despite the Yankee efforts to subvert us and sabotage us, because it is a just and real policy. The propaganda of the revolution is not made by the transnational news agencies, nor is it based on deceitful slogans. It is based on facts and achievements.

We want peace, but not the humiliating peace of the imperial impositions, because that is not real peace. We think that peace is possible in Central America, but for this there must first be an end to Yankee interference, there must be an end to its threats and military deployments in the region. While the U.S. Government insists on its warmongering policy, there can be no peace in Central America.

While Honduran territory continues to be used as a base of aggressions against Nicaragua, there will be no peace in the region. While the Reagan administration continues to seek a military defeat of the Salvadoran revolutionaries and continues trying to escalate the war in that small country, Reagan's peace declarations are only deceitful and cynical words. For there to be peace in Central America, it is necessary to recognize that the Sandinist people's revolution is an irreversible reality, and that the FMLN in El Salvador is an indestructible reality, and that any political or military formula that does not recognize this reality cannot bring peace to the region. [applause]

Nicaragua recognizes that there are other countries in the region that have political and social systems different from ours, and in the same way that we do not accept having anyone tell us how to manage our internal affairs we do not have any intention of imposing our political system on other Central American countries. We are convinced that the countries of Central America can live in peace and maintain normal relations, regardless of our different political systems and ideologies. This will be possible if we all respect the right of others to have the government they deem fit, and if no country in the region interferes in the internal affairs of another.

This peace is possible if the territory of a Central American country is not used to launch armed aggressions against another country of the region. These are the minimum bases to secure lasting peace in Central America. These elemental principles of human coexistence are the ones rejected and scorned by the Yankee government with its blundering and adventurous policy. We want peace; but if they come to us wanting war, they will find war in the armed people. [applause]

To preserve and develop as a living museum, as a monument for the patriotic education of the new generations, the Junta of the Government of National Reconstruction has decided to declare the (San Albino) mineral as a historic legacy of the country and (Cerro el Chipote), that indestructible fortress of General Sandino, as a national park. [applause]

Imperialism and the armed counterrevolution have concentrated their aggressions in this beautiful region of the country. And in the past months they have kidnapped dozens of peasants. They have assassinated technicians, coffee pickers and peasant members of cooperatives. They tried to sabotage the coffee harvest. They bombed border townships and launched massive attacks with the declared purpose of taking a portion of our territory. Again they have redoubled their criminal attempts during these days.

Several groups infiltrated the zone of Quilali with the purpose of attacking the adjoining townships and threatening Jalapa to the south. But once again the counter-revolutionaries have met with the fighting capacity of our Sandinist People's Army [EPS]; with the fighting spirit of the citizens of Las Segovias, who have organized the defense of the townships in Jalapa, Santa Maria and many other places; with the courage of our reservists who have come from all parts of the country to struggle here in Las Segovias; with the firmness and intelligence of combatants of the Interior Ministry. They have encountered the indestructible wall of patriotism of the men and women who defend their revolution. The invaders of today, the Somozist guards, like yesterday continue to be an instrument of Yankee imperiailism, cannon fodder of the adventurous policy of the Yankees. But they are not far behind the blond invaders in their cruelty and lack of scruples. The CIA has aided these counterrevolutionaries by giving them arms, communications equipment and all sorts of military equipment -- but to no avail, because despite everything they have had to bite the dust of our mountains in Bismuna, in (Neuvo Roble), in (Lomo Oscuro), in (Huila) and recently in Cerro Blanco, where an entire enemy column was totally annihilated. We inflicted on them more than 25 dead, took 18 prisoners, and recovered large quantities of ammunition and arms. [applause]

The struggle is and will be arduous, because of the political and material aid the U.S. Government is giving to the counterrevolutionaries. Our peoples will have to continue to make hard sacrifices to defend their lives, their land and their future. But we will not vacillate one instant. Victory is ours as of now, because this people is invincible and this revolution is indestructible. We are convinced that in the face of the aggressions of the enemy there is but one reply; to fight, to fight and to fight. Therefore, it is necessary to strengthen and consolidate the reserve battalions, to improve the defense of villages, to multiply the number of militiamen and to improve the fighting capacity. The slogan is to work and fight, to study and fight, to plant and fight, to lauch and fight, until the last mercenary, the last invader is exterminated. They shall not pass. Free fatherland [crowd responds: or death]

HUMBERTO ORTEGA CONGRATULATES USSR COUNTERPART

PA232323 Paris AFP in Spanish 1630 GMT 23 Feb 83

[Text] Managua, 23 Feb (AFP) -- The Armed Forces of the USSR "will be a guarantee for peace," said Nicaraguan Defense Minister Humberto Ortega in a message addressed to his Soviet counterpart Marshal Dmitriy Ustinov on the occasion of the 65th anniversary of the foundation of that corps. In describing the Soviet Armed Forces as "heroic," Ortega expressed his conviction that this security organization "will be the guarantor for the fulfillment of the peace policy that his government, party and people are negotiating around the world."

RADIO 15 SEPTEMBER REPORTS ON FSLN SITUATION

Widespread Arrests Cited

PA181640 (Clandestine) Radio 15 September in Spanish to Nicaragua 0230 GMT 17 Feb 83

[Excerpt] Radio 15 September has received reports indicating that some 300 people were arrested over the weekend in Chinandega, Leon and Managua. Most of these repressive actions are taking place in the western departments, following several fires in Chinandega and Leon. Some of those arrested will be tried by special courts, which were established earlier to handle such cases.

The Sandinist regime issued a bulletin saying that all who were arrested are counter-revolutionaries. A close relative of Alfonso Robelo and other Nicaraguan citizens have already been convicted and imprisoned, while others are still awaiting trial. Most of those arrested in Matagalpa are peasants.

FDN Clashes with Sandinists

PA182023 (Clandestine) Radio 15 September in Spanish to Nicaragua 0230 GMT 18 Feb 83

[Text] Freedom commandos with the Nicaraguan Democratic Force [FDN], members of the Nicarao Tactical Unit, have clashed with the people's enemy, the FSLN. Commander Max reports that units under his command clashed with the people's enemy, the FSLN. He reports that there was a bloody battle on 30 January at the enemy's stronghold called (El Guapinolito), located between the towns of San Fernando and Ciudad Antigua, in the jurisdiction of Ocotal. In the 5 hours of fighting, the enemy sustained 25 casualties and our forces recovered 35 AK-47 rifles, 7,563 7.62 caliber rounds, 2 radios and other war supplies. We lament the death of a FDN freedom fighter, who gave his life for the fatherland's freedom in this battle.

Commander Max, the Nicarao Tactical Unit's operations chief, also reports that on 13 February, troops under his command attacked the hideout of repression called La Union, located at the farm with the same name on the slopes of Cerro Blanco in the jurisdiction of (Kilali) in Nueva Segovia Department, some 50 km from Ocotal. Some 18 Sandinists were killed and the rest of the communist garrison fled, leaving the bodies of their comrades and a large amount of weapons and supplies. The FDN commandoes gave a Christian burial to the Nicaraguan brothers who were killed in that battle. It has been confirmed that the dead include three commanders of units in the FSLN, the army of repression.

Commander Max also reports that at 1600 today a helicopter belonging to the genocidal mangy dog air force, FAS [Sandinist Air Force], was downed while on a reconnaissance mission over an area of the road that links Susucayan with (Kilali), about 11 km from the communist base at Santa Clara, Nueva Segovia Department.

Misurasata on Armed Struggle

PA230356 (Clandestine) Radio 15 September in Spanish to Nicaragua 0230 GMT 23 Feb 83

[Excerpts] The armed struggle continues throughout our national territory. This was stated by Steadman Fagoth Muller, member of the Nicaraguan Democratic Force [FDN]. The Indian organization Misurasata [Miskito, Sumu, Rama, Sandinist Unity], a member of the FDN and made up of approximately 15,000 Miskitos, Sumus and Ramas, has informed us that it has decided to continue its armed struggle against the Sandinist regime that misgoverns our country because efforts are being made to push them to international and atheistic communism. In an official statement issued in this regard, it said the following: We have no other choice or alternative but to take up weapons because our demands to let us live in peace and in accordance with our customs and traditions were not heard.

Nicaraguan brothers, this is how Steadman Fagoth Muller tells us that many protests were presented to the OAS and the United Nations, but unfortunately those organizations did not listen to our demands for justice.

In order to undertake our struggle against the Marxist-Leninist regime that misgoverns our country, Misurasata, which forms part of the FDN, has formed a war staff [estado mayor de guerra] headed by Commander Steadman Fagoth Muller and comprised of Commanders (Walter Carvajal), (Raul Tobias Mendez), (Eduardo Panzun), (Lejad Mora Lubrik) and (Elmer Prado). Nicaraguan brothers, we are going to repeat these names of the Misurasata, a member of the FDN. They are: Steadman Fagoth Muller, (Walter Carvajal), Raul Tobias Mendez), (Eduardo Panzun), (Lejad Mora Lubrik) and (Elmer Prado).

In its official statement, Misurasata indicated that the Sandinist government is trying to exterminate the Nicaraguan Indians because they have refused to give up their customs of community life and submit themselves to communist colonization. The Indians have repeatedly told the Managua government that they will not be cannon fodder in the communist experiment of the FSLN commanders.

The commanders of the staff of Misurasata, an organization that is part of the FDN, said that it has all the resources to undertake an armed struggle against the Marxist-Leninist regime that misgoverns our country today. The Misurasata leaders clearly stated that the Indians who have taken up weapons and who are today struggling against the FMLN are those in the Mosquitia, and that none of the Indians who have taken refuge in Honduras and Costa Rica is participating in this armed struggle.

MORA HERMAN COMMENTS ON U.S.-PANAMA INCIDENT

FL240249 Havana Domestic Television Service in Spanish 0100 GMT 24 Feb 83

[Carlos Mora Herman commentary]

[Text] The contempt for our countries and the underestimation of our peoples, together with the arrogance of U.S. rulers provokes incidents such as the one in Panama with the U.S. ambassador. Mr Everett Briggs, the U.S. diplomatic representative, undertook a number of efforts to interview National Guard officers and even tried to offer a toast in Chiriqui Province, ignoring established mechanisms which state that such things should be done through the Foreign Ministry or through a request from the National Guard Command. This led to a letter sent by the chief of that military institution, General Ruben Dario Paredes, to Mr Briggs protesting his meddling actions and warning him that if there is a repetition of such actions, he will ask the government to declare him persona non grata and expel him from the country.

This letter has caused an enormous commotion in Panama where all the media has commented on it, priasing the honorable attitude assumed by Paredes in the face of the Washington diplomat's meddling. Most of the important Panamanian political parties as well as mass organizations have voiced their support for the letter's contents, demanding the expulsion of the meddlesome ambassador. In a paragraph of the letter, Paredes tells Briggs: I would not like to think that your diplomatic investure conceals a high intelligence officer, working for espionage agencies of the United States of America.

The Panamanian daily CRITICA yesterday published an article entitled "What Is Behind the Paredes Letter to Briggs?" The response is not very difficult to determine. Behind the letter is the continuing U.S. meddling attitude in Latin America and the Caribbean, as has been demonstrated in numerous occasions. Suffice to cite the cases of Chile, Guatemala, El Salvador, Nicaragua, Bolivia, the Dominican Republic and Cuba.

The Washington government has observed an aggressive policy aimed at destabilizing Panama, which intensified following the death of General Omar Torrijos under questionable circumstances and which has aroused suspicion about the CIA. Panama continues to be a base of aggression against Latin American and Caribbean peoples through the U.S. military installations and training being conducted there by the Pentagon. Washington has conducted all types of campaigns and applied pressure to separate Panama from the Nonaligned Movement.

Because all of this, the honorable attitude of General Paredes has the support of the Panamanian people, a heroic and rebel nation, which has given many martyrs to the struggle for the country's sovereignty and in the face of U.S. Marines' insolence, as in January 1964 when 21 Panamanian students gave their lives in an attempt to raise the Panamanian flag in the zone occupied by the Yankees. This meddling incident by Ambassador Briggs in Panama clearly demonstrates that the Panamanians have learned for a long time now that it is not worth living on your knees.

COMMENTARIES CRITICIZE U.S. HUMAN RIGHTS REPORT

Latin America Situation

PA220250 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 21 Feb 83

["Our America" commentary]

[Text] The recent annual report presented by the U.S. State Department on the status of human rights in Latin America states that the most repressive regimes on the continent are those of Cuba, Guyana, Nicaragua, Grenada and Suriname.

Without the slightest blush, the U.S. Government added that on the contrary there has been a significant improvement in the status of human rights in El Salvador, Guatemala, Haiti, Chile, Uruguay and Paraguay.

Faced with the puzzlement caused among the hundred or so newsmen who had been called to the White House to hear this, a State Department spokesman admitted that it is impossible to criticize openly countries that are friends of Washington. To be hostile toward friendly governments, he said shamelessly, would limit U.S. influence on them in the future. Therefore, we prefer to be diplomatic.

To the United States, diplomacy is a cloak with which to cover up the most monstrous crimes ever committed in the history of our America. Ever since the times of the Spanish colonization, the Latin American countries, which at the time were inhabited by Indian tribes, have been subjected to indescribable crimes. History books on the era report the murder of Indians by the Spanish colonists. Thus we recall the murders of Tupac Amaru, Hatuey and other prominent tribal chiefs. These are some of the examples that are remembered among the many inhuman acts committed by the colonists.

However, those acts pale in comparison with the indiscriminate massacres that are carried out today by some of the regimes on the continent, like those of El Salvador and Guatemala, that the United States protects, encourages and supports.

There are really no appropriate words to describe the dismemberment of pregnant women, the slaughter of prisoners, the torture and other contemptible actions against children, adolescents, elderly people and youths that are carried out daily by the repressive forces of Guatemala and El Salvador, among others. Neither are there words to describe the massive and systematic repression applied to the peoples of Chile, Uruguay and Paraguay, where the most elementary human rights have been curtailed for many years.

All these crimes against humanity are as monstrous and contemptible as those that were committed for centuries by the Spanish colonists in America. Yet the United States claims that in these countries there has been a significant improvement in the status of human rights.

On the contrary, in those countries in which the individual rights of man are truly respected, Washington finds no democracy or freedom. In other words, these are nations that refuse to continue to be imperialist neocolonies and that pursue a policy of socioeconomic change. Hence the United States launches its pompous campaigns of lies and calumny, prepares one plan of aggression after another and uses political blackmail and economic pressure against those countries.

El Salvador Viewed

PA230050 Havana International Service in Spanish 2310 GMT 21 Feb 83

["Our America" commentary]

[Text] The committee of mothers and relatives of prisoners, missing persons and persons murdered for political reasons in El Salvador has charged that at least 15 human rights as established in the universal declaration of man's rights are being violated in El Salvador. The committee also said that the Salvadoran regime with its repressive apparatus has set up a reign of terror in that Central American country.

In a document published in Mexico City, the committee charged that some 46,000 persons have been murdered in the past 3 years in El Salvador. At least 5,736 were killed in 1982. The committee said that the legal, social and ideological structure of the Salvadoran state leads only to death.

The comittee added that the state of terror established by the regime since 1979 is based on decrees which were recently confirmed to legalize human rights violation. The committee referred in particular to Decree 155 on the state of siege, and to Decree 507, which permits the use of torture to obtain a confession.

Not only the Salvadoran regime is to blame for the massacre of this heroic people of our America. U.S. imperialism is also responsible because of its economic, political, diplomatic and military support for the dictatorship. The Salvadoran revolutionary forces have often said that only broad U.S. support for the Salvadoran authorities can account for the survival of the dictatorship. This was confirmed in a recent letter that the Salvadoran Human Rights Commission sent to U.S. President Ronald Reagan, which said that he is responsible for the situation of tens of thousands of families that have missing relatives and of the 500,000 Salvadoran political exiles in foreign countries.

The letter to President Reagan said: We urge you to stop the massive and constant supply of U.S. arms to the Salvadoran Army. The letter added: Let us stop torture and death from the hands of those using modern U.S. made weapons. Let us have no more U.S. military advisers, no more U.S. arms for the executioners of the people, no more meddling in the country's internal affairs and no more violations of the legitimate right to self-determination among civilized nations. Let us have peaceful coexistence.

The Salvadoran Human Rights Commission claims to be one of the many voices denouncing the suffering of the Salvadroan people who are demanding peace and social justice. The commission said that it support all the efforts being made on behalf of peace for the Salvadorans and all the proposals for dialogue, because it is the most suitable alternative for a solution of the serious Salvadoran crisis.

Finally, the commission expressed in its letter to President Reagan its opposition to U.S. policy in Central America, which is contrary to the aspirations of the peace-loving peoples of the region, who have always been denied the right to economic and social development.

UN ENVOY CONDEMNS 'U.S. MANEUVERS AGAINST LIBYA'

FL241300 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1200 GMT 24 Feb 83

[Text] At the UN Security Council, Cuba has expressed its firm solidarity with the Libyan people and condemned U.S. aggressive policies against a country which is a member of the Nonaligned Movement. Cuban delegate Raul Roa Kouri, speaking before the Council looking into Washington's provicative actions against Libya, said that the new U.S. maneuvers have an intimidating purpose. Raul Roa Kouri called the Council's attention to this grave situation which, he said, together with Israel's repeated aggressions against Arab countries, endanger world peace and security.

COMMENTARY VIEWS IMPORTANCE OF RADIO VENCEREMOS

PA241957 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 22 Feb 83

[Text] Guerrilla radio has been and will continue to be an efficient means for independence fighters to break the news blockade imposed by the dominant classes and imperialism.

In the revolutionary struggles of the past few decades there have been many patriotic radio stations which, in the midst of the greatest difficulties, have benefitted from the creativity of the popular forces. Such stations have contributed to raising the fighting spirit of the masses and have told the people the truth about the liberation war.

Cubans are familiar with the broadcasts of Radio Rebelde, which operated from the heart of the Sierra Maestra Mountains. This radio station was able to successfully confront the lies told by the dictator Fulgencio Batista's news media. The valuable experiences of Radio Liberation, voice of the National Liberation Front of South Vietnam, and, more recently Radio Sandino, the radio of Nicragua's FSLN, are still fresh in our minds. [Recording of Radio Venceremos station identification with theme song is now played in background] Radio Venceremos was born 2 years ago from the study of these valuable examples and their adaptation to the true national situation. Radio Venceremos is the official voice of El Salvador's FMLN.

This guerrilla radio station was consolidated as a project on 10 January 1981 when it began broadcasting from the mountainous in Morazan Department, from territory controlled by the Salvadoran patriots. Its origin goes back 12 months when work was done to create a mediumwave radio station that could broadcast to San Salvador. It began functioning on 22 January 1980, identifying itself as Radio Revolucionaria del Pueblo. The few newspapers and radio stations that had been critical of the dictatorship had been closed in El Salvador by then. Honest journalists were either in prison, in exile or had been murdered. Msgr Oscar Arnulfo Romero, the voice of the humble, was killed by fascist bullets. This is why Radio Venceremos then became the last free voice under the dictatorship and the first free voice of the people's power.

Since its creation, the Radio Venceremos team, which includes some 100 fighters in charge of operation and security, has resisted 15 enemy military offensives as well as the attempts at jamming by U.S. spy ships off the Salvadoran coast. But the broadcasts continue as an expression of the people's will to win. This was confirmed by Margarita Gonzalez, representative of Radio Venceremos in Cuba. [Background music ends]

[Begin Gonzalez recording] The most important achievement of Radio Venceremos, official voice of the FMLN, is that it exists. Imperialism has spent thousands of dollars to destroy it. Radio Venceremos resisted various offensives on two occasions. These offensives were very big. During the 1981 offensive, Radio Venceremos had to remain silent for some 6 days because it was in danger of being pinpointed. Imperialism was on top of it. Imperialism has spent money to counter Radio Venceremos. In the Gulf of Fonseca, imperialism has placed a destroyer with very sophisticated and expensive telecommunications equipment. Imperialism has realized that Radio Venceremos can't be destroyed with bombs and bullets; therefore, it has a destroyer in the Gulf of Fonseca. In Honduras there are private radio stations that also try to interfere with Radio Venceremos by playing music that is not in line with our revolutionary aspirations. [end of Gonzalez recording following by recording of the Radio Venceremos station identification]

You have just heard a report on El Salvador's Radio Venceremos. We invite you to listen to a similar program next week. [end recording]

RAUL CASTRO ATTENDS SOVIET ANNIVERSARY RECEPTION

FL241513 Havana Domestic Television Service in Spanish 1303 GMT 24 Feb 83

[Text] Army General Raul Castro, second secretary of our party Central Committee and FAR minister, attended a reception hosted by Rear Admiral Genadiy Mikhaylov [rank as heard], military naval and air attache in the Soviet Embassy in Cuba, last night to celebrate the 65th anniversary of the Soviet Army and Navy. Jorge Risquet and Julio Camacho Aguilera, members of our party Politburo; Division General Senen Casas, first vice minister of the FAR; and Vilma Espin, president of the Federation of Cuban Women -- both alternate members of the party Politburo -- also attended the event.

BARBADOS' CHELTENHAM ADDRESSES ACP/EEC ASSEMBLY

FL242301 Bridgetown CANA in English 2252 GMT 24 Feb 83

[Text] Kingston, Jamaica, Feb 24, CANA -- The nations of the African, Caribbean and Pacific countries (ACP) and the European Economic Community (EEC) have been urged not to squander the "rare historical opportunity for the advancement of mankind" that has presented itself "at this juncture of history."

Barbados Agriculture Minister Johnny Cheltenham, who is acting as president of the ACP Council of Ministers in the absence of the President (Fiji), made the call Wednesday night as he addressed the joint committee of the consultative assembly of the ACP/EEC which is now winding up here.

Prodding the ACP and the EEC states to take the lead in changing world relations in the direction of less dependence by some countries on others, Dr Cheltenham said "today's opportunities do not often survive tomorrow's exigencies."

"The consultative assembly and the joint committee have so far been in the vanguard of our joint struggle, WE seek that clear and unmistakable sign and assurance that they remain committed militants in the struggle for development."

Reviewing ACP/EEC relations, Dr Cheltenham said that Lome and all its offspring however named "will be little more than mere abortions if at the end of the day ACP countries become more rather than less dependent on outside assistance for their development."

He said that ACP/EEC trade, the Stabex fund to compensate ACP states for shortfalls in export revenue, industrial cooperation and agricultural cooperation programmes under the convention had all failed to progress. "Should we not in our interest, and as a principle of good management and administration, consider commissioning a comprehensive mid-term evaluation of our convention, so as to have a total and indepth review of how this important relationship of ours is faring?"

It was clear there was need for every effort to be made for fundamental re-thinking and new approaches in search of measures to resolve what are basic problems, Dr Cheltenham emphasised. He said it should be borne in mind that as the new negotiations approached it must be appreciated "that the importance of the ACP/EEC group in the international community and the solemn legal undertaking to which it was committed itself, to strive towards the creation of a model relationships between develop and developing countries, leaves absolutely no room for reneging. "In any case the social deprivation, the hunger, the starvation and the deaths in our ACP countries leaves us no choice but to seek substantially new and significantly improved relationships."

The Barbadian minister said ACP states found it "positively obscene" that the world chose to spend some U.S. 650 billion dollars last year alone on arms rather than devote ten per cent of it towards preventing one child dying every two seconds from hunger and disease. "The fact that many of these are our children places us in the centre of the struggle of and for mankind. We are thus truly joined in the fight."

Adding a note of pessimism Dr Cheltenham said the developing world has had little cause for hope in the recent past, pointing to the failure of the Brandt commission's report on North-South relations to generate much action and the slowing down of the international economy while interest rates, unemployment and arms expenditure increased. "Even limited success, such as that achieved in the convening of last November's General Agreement on Tariff and Trade (GATT) ministerial meeting on trade and the completion of the negotiations on the law of the sea has been seriously undermined by the selfish preoccupations of certain states," he said.

GRENADA

COARD REPORTS GROWTH IN COUNTRY'S ECONOMY

FL242333 Bridgetown CANA in English 2323 GMT 24 Feb 83

[By George Worme]

[Text] St Georges, Grenada, Feb. 24, CANA -- The Grenada Government today reported that the country's economy grew by a whopping 5.5 percent last year, despite the low prices fetched on the internationl market for its traditional export crops. Deputy Prime Minister Bernard Coard made the disclosure at a national conference organised by the People's Revolutionary Government (PRG) to discuss this year's proposed budget plan for the country.

Mr Coard told the conference, attended by delegates from such groups as the trade union movement, the National Youth Organisation (NYO) and the People's Revolutionary Army (PRA) that the real growth in the economy resulted from the various projects undertaken by the government.

He said the country experienced "real progress" in 1982, as government attempted to develop farm and feeder roads, establish its tile making and block making factory, the construction of new houses for nationals and to expand its house repair programme.

The government, he said, ended the last financial year with a recurrent surplus of 6.5 million E.C. dollars (1 EC dollar: 37 cents U.S.) from its recurrent budget of which 3.8 million dollars was used to help repay some of its debt and the remainder used for capital expenditure.

Mr Coard, in a run-down of Grenada's 1982 economic performance, said that the government was able to save half a million dollars in its recurrent expenditure budget although the country experienced an inflation rate of seven percent.

Capital expenditure, which stood at 101.5 million dollars, he said was met mainly from grants and loans extended to the island at favourable terms from friendly governments and intenrational organisations such as the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC).

On the question of foreign trade, the minister, Mr Coard, who is also the country's minister of finance and trade, stated that the total turnover in this area was 201 million E.C. dollars, of which imports made up 150.9 million and exports some 50 million dollars.

The minister said the 1982 import bill went up by only 2.9 percent from 146.7 million dollars, of the previous year, primarily because the country had embarked on a programme of importing less and producing and buying more local goods. The percentage of money spent to import food fell from 28.2 percent in 1982 to 27.5 percent in the following year and unemployment dropped from 49 percent in 1981 to 14 percent in 1982, he added.

Mr Coard also disclosed that the vlaue of exports fell slightly from 51.4 million dollars in 1981 to 50.1 million dollars in the last financial year because of the economic crisis in the Western industrialised countries.

Of the traditional export crops, he said that earnings from cocoa and bananas fell dramatically, while income from nutmegs and mace showed slight increases.

On the brighter side Grenada was able to increase its earnings from exports of fruits and vegetables from 1.4 million dollars in 1981 to 4.5 million dollars in 1982 and that from the sale of clothing by 10.6 percent during the same period.

RAMDHANNY EXPLAINS DECLINE IN COCOA INDUSTRY

FL190010 St Georges Domestic Service in Spanish 2300 GMT 18 Feb 83

[Excerpt] The Grenada Cocoa Association, in a review of the period October 1981 to September 1982, said the association experienced a difficult and a (?testing) year. The chairman of the association, Lyden Ramdhanny, told journalists at a test station this morning that the association experienced a difficult year for two reasons: the first, a drop in production and the [second], a decrease in prices on the world market. Mr Ramdhanny said the drop in the value of the British pound -- which is the main currency used for trading in cocoa -- caused the price drop on the world market for the cocoa industry.

He said farmers delivered some 5,204,432 pounds of cocoa to the association compared to 5,546,416 pounds the 1980-81 year. The cocoa association chairman said the reason for this decline was the (?greedy) world market situation and the reluctance of farmers to plant the crop since they were not sure how long the price would remain low. He said, however, that it was important to recognize that had the farmers continued their high level of production they would have saved some $500,000.

ST LUCIA

OFFICIAL GIVES VIEWS ON REGIONAL MEETINGS

FL231640 Bridgetown CANA in English 1602 GMT 23 Feb 83

[Excerpt] Castries, St Lucia, Feb. 23, CANA -- European Economic Community's (EEC) commissioner for development, Edgard Pisani, has had talks with Caribbean Government ministers and trade and finance officials on the Lome trade and aid convention which links the Community to the African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) countries, a St Lucia government spokesman reported today.

Deputy director of finance and planning here, Ausbert Dauvergne, said Mr Pisani wanted to get the other side's views on what should be included in a successor pact to the second Lome convention, which expires in 1985.

The meeting yesterday came shortly after talks which 13 Caribbean heads of government held here with Canadian Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau on Canada-Caribbean relations. Mr Dauvergne said that yesterday's meeting considered possible modifications to make future arrangements for the delivery of aid more efficient.

"The EEC commissioner seemed generally sympathetic to the problems which he said were common to ACP countries, and said that his department would attempt to make modifications," he added.

The finance official identified a common problem as the level of aid given by the EEC. He explained that when agreements were signed between EEC and individual ACP member countries they were fixed in the European Currency Unit (ECU) at a certain value. But given the general weakness of the currencies of European countries over the last two years, major problems had arisen because any sum denominated in ECU had in real terms depreciated as a result of the weakness of the ECU currency, Mr Dauvergne noted. He said that what most of the countries were requesting was that resources allocated to projects and programmes should be held in a fixed value in the currency of the recipient country and not in the ECU. He added that in this way any weakness or depreciation in the value of the ECU would not effect the recipient country, and the true value of any project or programme would be maintained.

BURNHAM BLASTS VENEZUELA ON NONALIGNED ISSUE

FL240038 Bridgetown CANA in English 0025 GMT 24 Feb 83

[By Edwin Ali]

[Text] Georgetown, Guyana, Feb 23, CANA -- Guyana's President Forbes Burnham says Venezuela's reasons for its suspension of a membership application to the Non-aligned Movement were "superious".

"The original announcement seemed strange, for up to the time of issue, no application had been made and joining is not automatic," he said. "Venezuela now states that she has suspended her application because of the opposition of Guyana who exercised a sort of veto." His comments were made during a ceremony last night at the national park here to mark the 13th anniversary of the republic.

Venezuela and Guyana have for years been at loggerheads over a claim by Caracas to 50,000 square miles of this country, including the large mineral-rich Essequibo region. Guyana rejects the claim of nearly 70 per cent of its territory.

President Burnham made it clear that Guyana has no veto in the movement. "We merely sought to have Venezuela declare her adherence to certain principles of the movement...viz, non-use of force in furtherance or support of territorial claims, the employment of peaceful means in the settlement of disputes and adjuring economic aggression, and therefore, the withdrawal of the objection to our upper Mazaruni complex lodged with the president of the World Bank in 1981," he explained.

He added: "The Venezuelan Government must know why the application was not really suspended. The reason given publicly is obviously spurious."

Mr Burnham said Guyana will proceed to next month's non-aligned summit in New Delhi, India, prepared to contribute to the deliberations "hoping with our colleagues and friends to strengthen the movement and make it more effective as a mechanism of cooperation between countries of the South at the political and economic levels."

Shortly after the president's address, broadcast nationwide, the names of 54 Guyanese on the 1983 national honours list, headed by Commonwealth Secretary-General Shridath Ramphal, were announced.

DPRK'S KIM IL-SONG SENDS GREETINGS TO BURNHAM

FL221300 Georgetown Guyana Domestic Service in English 1000 GMT 22 Feb 83

[Text] Leader of the DPRK, Kim Il-song, has sent a message of congratulations to President Forbes Burnham on his 60th birthday. The message was sent on behalf of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea, the DPRK Government, the Korean people and President Kim Il-song.

It said the people of Guyana have made great achievements in consolidating the country's independence and creating a new life in accordance with the line of building a cooperative socialism, holding high the slogan of self-reliance under the leadership of the current president. The Korean people, the message said, happily rejoice over the successes of the people of Guyana and expressed a firm solidarity with their just cause. President Kim Il-song expressed wishes for good health and happiness for the president and [words indistinct] to implement the decisions of the fourth congress of the people's national congress and building socialist Guyana.

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

SOCIALIST INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE HOLDS MEETING

PA241846 Paris AFP in Spanish 1602 GMT 24 Feb 83

[Text] Santo Domingo, 24 Feb (AFP) -- The Socialist International Committee for Latin America and the Caribbean began a 2-day closed-door meeting today. The committee is discussing the situation of the subcontinent, especially Central America, and attempting to establish a consensus before the next Socialist International world congress.

The meeting is chaired by Jose Francisco Pena Gomez, secretary general of the ruling Dominican Revolutionary Party. Before beginning their deliberations, the participants were received by President Salvador Jorge Blanco.

The Latin American participants include Guillermo Manuel Ungo and Hector Oqueli of the Salvadoran Revolutionary Democratic Front (FDR), former Venezuelan President Carlos Andres Perez, former Jamaican Prime Minister Michael Manley, Chilean leader Anselmo Sule and observers from the Nicaraguan FSLN, the Peruvian Aprista Party and the Revolutionary Democratic Party of Panama, it was learned.

Pena Gomez stressed the presence of Socialist International officials: Secretary General Bernt Carlsson of Switzerland and Executive Secretary Robin Sears of Canada. He also noted the presence of Milton Colindres, president of the Social Democratic Youth, and Irmtraut Lecrer, secretary general of the International Council of Social Democratic Women.

Pena Gomez announced that a press conference will be held tomorrow night.

UNDER SECRETARY DISMISSED, ENVOY APPOINTED

FL231300 Santo Domingo Radio HIZ in Spanish 1000 GMT 23 Feb 83

[Text] Mr (Victor Rio) was dismissed from his post as under secretary of public works by executive order. He was replaced by Mr (Roberto Rodriguez). President Salvador Jorge Blanco's order was contained in Decree No 771, issued yesterday. Likewise, the nation's chief executive appointed Dr Jose Angel Savinon as ambassador to [South] Korea through Decree No 789.

VENEZUELA

GOVERNMENT EXTENDS FINANCIAL CONTROL MEASURES

PA241800 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 24 Feb 83

[Text] In an attempt to avoid a capital drain of millions and to present a more substantial economic and financial image to international creditors, the Venezuelan Governement established differential exchange measures and extended a total suspension of the sale of foreign exchange for another 3 days. Venezuelan Finance Minister Arturo Sosa said that all changes in the various areas will be announced in detail when the exchange agreement between his ministry and the Venezuelan Central Bank goes into effect. Referring to the government's new financial measures, (Domingo Maza Falala), a Venezuelan economic expert, said that these measures actually imply a devaluation of the nation's currency.